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FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE SURVEY  
**PEST REPORT**

Pacific Forest Research Centre • Canadian Forestry Service • Victoria

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PINE NEEDLE SCALE IN THE OKANAGAN VALLEY, KAMLOOPS FOREST DISTRICT,  
MAY, 1972

C.B. Cottrell and D.A. Ross

In the past several years ponderosa pine trees in the Okanagan Valley have suffered from drought and winter injury. Many of the trees thus weakened have become severely infested by pine needle scale, Phenacaspis pinifoliae. Foliage that is heavily infested may take on a whitish appearance due to the abundance on the needles of the tiny elongate waxy scales covering the insects. The most noticeable infestations are in the East Kelowna, Rutland, Glenmore, Winfield and Oyama areas, although light attacks may be found throughout the valley bottoms up to about 2,000 feet in elevation on the valley slopes with light attacks up to 3,000 feet. In the Winfield area some Douglas-fir trees are also infested.

Sporadic infestations of this white scale insect has occurred in the Okanagan Valley for many years, however, only a minor amount of tree mortality has been attributed to this pest. At the present time a few sickly or suppressed trees, or trees growing on poor sites have died but it is thought that the more vigorously-growing trees will survive the scale attack. Infested trees growing about the home will survive if well-irrigated.

The insecticide Diazinon is registered for use against scale insects and where protection of trees is considered desirable should be applied about mid-June.