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FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE SURVEY
PEST REPORT

Pacific Forest Research Centre • Canadian Forestry Service • Victoria

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DEFOLIATION OF DOUGLAS-FIR STANDS IN THE VICINITY OF SALMON ARM

JULY, 1972

C.B. Cottrell and D.A. Ross

The western false hemlock looper, Nepytia freemani, has caused spectacular foliage discoloration of immature and semi-mature Douglas-fir in the White Lake, Tappen and Canoe areas. To date 12 infestations totalling an estimated 1,850 acres of moderate to severe defoliation have been noted. The largest and heaviest outbreak of some, 1,000 acres, is near Sunnybrae, north of Tappen. Although the larval feeding period is not yet over, most of the new and old foliage in the upper crowns of the trees has been destroyed. Little tree mortality is expected as a result of this year's feeding but additional attacks in 1973 and 1974 could cause extensive top-killing and tree mortality.

The only other known epidemic of this looper in British Columbia occurred in the Windermere Valley from 1947 to 1949 and resulted in some top-killing and tree mortality over several thousand acres of Douglas-fir stands.

Biologists from the Canadian Forestry Service, Victoria, B.C. are currently testing the effectiveness of two insect pathogens against the false hemlock looper.