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FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE SURVEY **PEST REPORT**

Pacific Forest Research Centre • Canadian Forestry Service • Victoria

July 6, 1973.

NEEDLE BLIGHT ON WESTERN LARCH

IN THE KAMLOOPS FOREST DISTRICT

Joseph A. Baranyay and Clifford B. Cottrell

Severe foliage discoloration, caused by the needle blight fungus Hypodermella laricis Tub., was observed on approximately 1,200 acres at the south side of Vance Creek, Silver Star Provincial Park. The affected stand contains about 60 per cent of almost mature western larch.

The first symptom of the disease usually appears in early June when the infected needles turn reddish-brown and severely infected stands have a scorched appearance. The black fruiting bodies of the fungus appear later on the dead needles during the summer. The dead diseased needles remain on the twigs during the winter when all healthy needles are shed.

Symptoms of the disease are usually more spectacular than the damage it is causing. In case of severe infection increment loss is expected and mortality of young trees may occur under specific conditions.