



PEST REPORT

Pacific Forest Research Centre • 506 West Burnside Rd. • Victoria, B.C. • V8Z 1M5

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WESTERN SPRUCE BUDWORM INFESTATIONS,

KAMLOOPS DISTRICT

H. Peter Koot

Numerous spruce budworm larvae were found causing light defoliation throughout Douglas-fir stands defoliated in 1973 in the Carpenter, Gun and Downton lakes area and south of Lytton along Kwoiek Creek. This is the seventh consecutive year of defoliation in the Bridge River Valley. New infestations are now also apparent along Fountain Valley (Three Lake Valley) and Botanie Creek, where heavy larval feeding is in progress.

In infested stands at lower elevations, up to 100% of the 1974 foliage had been consumed by the end of June. At elevations over 3,000 feet, approximately 50% of the current growth was stripped. At Mission Pass where previous infestations have caused some mortality of understory, and top-kill in overstory trees, dissection of larvae revealed over 30% parasitism. However, there remain sufficient numbers of budworm to cause moderate to severe defoliation in this area. Parasitism was light at Kwoiek Creek and Gun Lake.

Pupation which is already in progress at lower elevations should be completed in most areas by mid-July, at which time feeding damage will terminate.

If climatic conditions are conducive to insect development and no further parasitism or disease appears, moderate to severe defoliation can be expected in the aforementioned areas. With the exception of Mission Pass, it is unlikely that any significant tree mortality will result from 1974 defoliation, but increment loss, tree deformity and susceptibility to bark beetle attack may be expected.