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WESTERN FALSE HEMLOCK LOOPER IN THE KAMLOOPS FOREST DISTRICT, 1974

Clifford B. Cottrell and H. Peter Koot

Western false hemlock looper infestations in Douglas-fir stands expanded greatly in 1974 in the North Okanagan and in the North and South Thompson River valleys. Some defoliation had occurred in these areas in 1973. Outbreaks near Salmon Arm and Enderby, which were first noted in 1972, have declined somewhat although several hundred acres of defoliation are apparent in each area.

The largest infestations are as follows: north of Kamloops from Jamieson Creek to Barriere (2,000+ acres) along both sides of the South Thompson Valley approximately six miles each side of Chase (2,000± acres), and from Vernon to Lavington on both sides of Coldstream Creek (800± acres).

Late in June most of the current year's foliage of these trees was destroyed indicating that severe defoliation may occur by August when the larval feeding period is completed. Some top-kill may be expected in areas that were also heavily attacked in 1973. However, the rapid tree mortality that occurred near Sunnybrae, Gleneden and White Lake in 1973 is thought to be exceptional, due in part to drought conditions and the dry, rocky sites involved.

Infestations at Jamieson Creek and Coldstream contained a large number of Douglas-fir tussock moth larvae which added to the damage.

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