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PEST REPORT

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June 6, 1975.

DEFOLIATION OF BROAD-LEAVED TREES IN THE GREATER VICTORIA REGION

Colin Wood

Extensive foliage damage to a variety of broad-leaved hosts, including oak and maple, has been caused by the spanworm, *Operophtera occidentalis*, throughout the Victoria, Saanich and surrounding area. Moderate populations of the western tent caterpillar, *Malacosoma californica pluviale*, and several other species, have caused additional defoliation.

Signs of feeding by spanworms first occurred in early May and by early June fruit trees and occasional oak trees in some localities were completely defoliated.

The high numbers of spanworms recorded throughout the region are expected to persist in 1976.

Some protection of open-growing trees, from spanworms, can be obtained by trapping the wingless female moths in the fall of 1975 on a sticky barrier around the tree trunks. More effective is application of a recommended insecticide shortly after bud opening next spring.