

# PEST REPORT

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

May 19, 1976.

## SCALE INSECTS ON PONDEROSA PINE

OKANAGAN VALLEY, B. C.

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Black pineleaf scale, *Nuculaspis californica* (Coleman), and to a lesser degree pine needle scale, *Phenacaspis pinifoliae* (Fitch), persist as pests on ponderosa pine trees on dry sites at several centers in the Okanagan Valley. The black as well as the white scales are abundant below the 2,000 foot elevation on the east side of the Valley from Okanagan Falls to Penticton and Naramata, and from Kelowna to Oyama, and along Westside Road near Fintry on Okanagan Lake. Heavy needle loss from the 1974 growth - resulting from feeding by the scale insects and drought conditions - is particularly noticeable in pole-sized pine trees near East Kelowna and Penticton. The needles produced in 1975 on the infested trees are yellowing.

Scale insects are especially troublesome on new subdivisions where trees have been mechanically disturbed or where the level of the water table has been lowered by ditching. Trees on home lots that are kept well-watered and fertilized are little subject to damage by these pests.

Insecticidal sprays, when used, should be applied shortly after egg hatch, when the crawlers appear as tiny specks on the new needles. A second application some 10 days later may be desirable.