



PEST REPORT

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WEATHER DAMAGE ALONG THE ALASKA HIGHWAY

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Winter drying caused widespread damage to lodgepole pine and white spruce in the mountainous regions of the Alaska Highway. Foliage discoloration was most severe in the Trutch Mountain area along the Minaker and Prophet River valleys from Mile 175 to Mile 212 of the Alaska Highway. Some tree mortality is expected. Less severely affected areas were Mile 402 to Mile 405 near Muncho Lake, Toad River Valley and the Wokpash-Racing River area.

The condition is caused by a warm wind drying the needles when the moisture in the ground is still frozen and not available to the tree. Consequently, the foliage discolors and drops. Usually buds are not killed, the new shoots flush and the trees become green again. However, in severe cases some buds may be killed and thin-barked twigs or stems may be injured, causing some tree mortality as in the Trutch area.