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# PEST REPORT

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

June 20, 1977.

## DEFOLIATION OF ALDER TREES IN THE EAST COASTAL REGION AND GULF ISLANDS

Colin S. Wood

Larvae of the striped alder sawfly, *Hemichroa crocea*, are defoliating alder trees in stands within 5 miles of the coastline from Mill Bay north to Nanoose, and on Saltspring and Gabriola islands.

Larvae are currently in the early stages of development, and as feeding progresses into August, complete (100%) defoliation is expected in localized areas on southern Saltspring Island; moderate defoliation (25% - 75%) in localized areas around Cherry Point on Vancouver Island, and light to moderate defoliation (10% - 50%) elsewhere in the coastal region and on Gabriola Island.

Defoliation will probably recur for 2 to 3 successive years unless natural control factors affect the population.

Control measures are usually not warranted as tree mortality is rare, and natural parasites and predators effectively reduce populations at most stages of the life cycle.