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June 20(2)

PEST REPORT

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

June 20, 1977.

DEFOLIATION OF BROADLEAVED TREES IN THE GREATER VICTORIA REGION

Colin S. Wood

The Bruce spanworm, *Operophtera bruceata*, has extensively damaged the foliage of many species of broadleaved trees including oak, maple, willow and fruit trees for the fifth consecutive year throughout the Greater Victoria, Saanich and Esquimalt regions. Several other species of defoliating insects, including the western tent caterpillar, *Malacosoma c. pluviale*, caused additional defoliation.

The high numbers of spanworms are expected to continue in 1978 unless natural control factors occur this year or in early 1978. Western tent caterpillar populations are expected to decline further in 1978.