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# PEST REPORT

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

July 11, 1977.

## WESTERN SPRUCE BUDWORM INFESTATIONS IN DOUGLAS-FIR STANDS ALONG THE FRASER RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES

Ernie V. Morris and Jack S. Monts

Feeding by the spruce budworm on Douglas-fir foliage is almost completed for the year, and the resultant foliage discoloration is nearing a maximum in the forests adjoining the Fraser River and its tributaries from Pavilion to Hope.

Severe defoliation is particularly evident at Botanie Creek, Soap Lake, Kwoiek Creek, Izman Creek, Cinquefoil Creek, Fountain Valley, Bridge River, Cayoosh Creek, and Carpenter Lake from Mission Pass to Gun Lake.

Farther south the heaviest defoliation is in the Fraser Canyon and tributary valleys from Yale to north of Boston Bar, Coquihalla River, Hope-Princeton Highway, and at Owl Creek and Birkenhead Lake in the Pemberton area. Defoliation is moderate at Haylmore Creek, and along Silver-Skagit and Sumallo rivers. Defoliation is light along the upper Lillooet River, Lillooet Lake and the Lower Lillooet River.

More precise descriptions of the areas of defoliation will be available after the aerial surveys that will be made after July 18.

Generally the larvae submitted for examination of disease appeared to be healthy. One collection from Shalalth (Mission Pass) was heavily infected with nuclear polyhedral virus. One similarly infected specimen was taken at Railroad Creek. It is too early to assess the effectiveness of the parasites, however, parasitism of larvae appears to have been moderate.

An assessment of egg sampling to be carried out in August should provide data for making predictions about the epidemic for 1978.