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# PEST REPORT

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

July 17, 1978.

## LARCH PESTS IN THE WEST KOOTENAY

Robert D. Erickson

In the West Kootenay of Nelson Forest District, western larch foliage is being affected by four different forest pests: larch casebearer, a larch needle cast, a larch needle rust and larch budmoth. There is also a possibility, by August, for larch to undergo the feeding of another pest, a larch looper, *Semiothisa sexmaculata*.

1) Larch casebearer. The results of the spring feeding of this insect show as red-brown foliage of larch trees in the Creston - Nelson - Castlegar areas. The casebearer is presently in the egg stage and following hatch will produce additional foliage discoloration in a few weeks.

2) and 3) The diseases larch needle cast, *Hypodermella laricis*, and a larch needle rust, *Melampsora medusae*, in some areas in association with casebearers, caused much of the western larch throughout the western portion of the Nelson Forest District to lose the needles of the new growth (Larch needle rust) and severely brown the remaining older foliage (larch needle cast). Some of the more noteworthy areas are Pass Creek, Grand Forks, Johnston Creek, Main Kettle River, Kuskanax Creek, New Denver to Kaslo, New Denver to Nakusp and Johnston Landing on Kootenay Lake. The trees will refoliate again next spring.

4) Larch budmoth. Patches of discolored western larch, partially defoliated by larch budmoth, can be seen near Holmes Creek, Wee Sandy Creek in the New Denver area, and Halfway River, Kuskanax Creek, Slewiskin Creek, Cusson Creek, Rioulx Creek, and Plant Creek in the Nakusp area.

All in all this is not a good year for western larch. There has been some growth loss, however little or no tree mortality is expected to result from the activities of these pests.