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PEST REPORT

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WINTER MOTH ON VANCOUVER ISLAND, 1979

Roland O. Wood

Areas of defoliation caused by the winter moth, Operophtera brumata, were mapped from vantage points and from a road and street survey in May and early June. Defoliation of Garry oak, broadleaf maple, ornamental birch, hawthorn and a variety of fruit trees was general throughout Victoria and surrounding municipalities (see map). Indeed, defoliation was recorded in most areas where those tree species occurred. Areas of damage included Victoria, Sidney, Brentwood, Esquimalt, Central Saanich and around Elk and Prospect lakes. Defoliation by winter moth was not recorded in Duncan or Nanaimo, although moths were trapped in both areas in October, 1978.

The areas of defoliation expanded from 1978, but the intensity of damage appeared to have lessened. However, pockets of severe defoliation did occur, particularly in the Mt. Tolmie - Lansdowne and Christmas Hill areas.

