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# PEST REPORT

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

June 23, 1980

DISCOLORATION OF WESTERN LARCH,

WEST KOOTENAY

R.D. ERICKSON

In many parts of the West Kootenay, western larch are discolored red-brown again this year. There are two principal causes: 1) larch casebearer, Coleophora laricella and 2) larch needle cast, Hypodermella laricis.

In some areas these two forest pests are affecting the same stand, but severe needle cast generally begins further up the valley sides and extends to about 1300 m elevation.

Areas affected mainly by casebearer: light defoliation from Salmo to Nelway, South Slokan to New Denver, along Arrow Creek, Nelson to Castlegar and near Christina Lake; severe defoliation from Rock Creek to Bridesville, Greenwood to Grand Forks, east of Christina Lake along Hwy #3 to Day Creek, along the Granby River from Burrell Creek to Howe Creek, Creston to Rykert's and the west side of the Creston Valley to Summit Creek.

Areas primarily affected by needle cast are the west side of the Creston-Salmo Hwy., along the Castlegar-Salmo Hwy. from Champion Creek to Salmo, and in patches from New Denver to Kaslo.

Tree mortality is not expected to result from these pests but the loss of foliage can affect growth. The casebearer is presently in the adult stage, depositing eggs on new larch foliage. There will be very little additional defoliation by either of these pests this year.