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PEST REPORT

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PINE NEEDLE DISEASES

NELSON FOREST REGION

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Preliminary observations indicate the widespread occurrence in the southern half of the Nelson Forest Region of at least two pine needle diseases - red band needle disease of pine caused by Dothistroma pini (imperfect state of Scirrhia pini), and Elytroderma disease of pine, caused by Elytroderma deformans.

1. Dothistroma pini

This needle blight which causes reddening and premature loss of foliage has caused moderate to severe discoloration of all three commercial pine species in the West Kootenay. Western white pine appears the most severely affected, particularly in the lower crowns of immature trees where up to 100% of foliage may be discolored. Areas of conspicuous damage include Hills, Summit Lake, Lemon Creek, and Vallican in the Slocan Valley, around Salmo and near Rock Creek. Needles showing typical damage symptoms were infected last year and will shed later this year, with the result that crowns will appear thin. Flushing of the current year's needles will generally improve the trees' appearance. Weather conditions will determine how many of the new needles become infected.

2. Elytroderma deformans

Elytroderma disease is causing discoloration of 1981 growth on both lodgepole and ponderosa pines in the Nelson Forest Region. It is most prominent on lodgepole pine in the East Kootenay. This disease occurs in patches ranging in size from a few trees to 10 hectares each, in the Kitchener-Yahk-Moyie River area, where up to 30% of the foliage is affected. Symptoms typical of this disease have also been found in portions of the "Driftwood Fire" west of Spillimacheen where 20-40% of the foliage is affected, and in mature lodgepole pine stands along Upper Kootenay and Lussier rivers. Further surveys are expected to delineate additional areas of infection.

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