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PEST REPORT

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

March 1984

A CYPRESS TIP MOTH, VICTORIA, 1984

John Vallentgoed, Forest Insect and Disease Survey

The time to act is now! In 1983, foliar browning, branch and occasional tree or shrub mortality, caused by a cypress tip moth, was severe. Ornamental cupressaceous trees and shrubs such as Italian, Lawson, Leyland, and Monterey cypresses, Oriental cedar and some species of juniper were affected throughout the Victoria and Saanich Peninsula areas.

Five samples taken February 19, 1984 from Gordon Head area to Esquimalt confirmed the active presence of cypress tip moth larvae in all cases. The larvae have reached approximately one third mature size, damage has already occurred and will increase progressively until larvae mature in April-May.

After passing the winter in relative inactivity, tip moth larvae commence active feeding in early spring. This is when they do most of their damage. Each larva is capable of attacking four to six twigs causing each twig to die beyond the point of attack. Trees and shrubs which showed some damage in 1983 or which are in the immediate vicinity of other damaged trees may warrant control measures.

On a calm, dry, sunny day in March, a thorough spraying of trees and shrubs with an insecticide with systemic properties such as Cygon or Orthene should be applied (following product label instructions) to reduce damage and help control the insect. A repeat application approximately two weeks later (late March-April) is recommended.

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