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PEST REPORT

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

July 1984

PESTS OF POPLARS AND TREMBLING ASPEN

in the NASS and SKEENA RIVER VALLEYS

PRINCE RUPERT REGION, 1984

Nick Humphreys

Forest Insect and Disease Survey

Trembling aspen and black cottonwood stands in the Nass River Valley have been severely infected by the shoot blights Venturia macularis and V. populina, respectively. Dead shoots and leaves are particularly common on aspen in groves up to 20 ha from Kitwanga to Cranberry Junction. Black cottonwood saplings are commonly, but less severely, affected throughout the same general area.

The increased levels of infection were favoured by the moist spring, and could result in terminal and branch dieback of saplings and some growth loss on severely infected mature trees.

Increased populations of the poplar and willow borer Cryptorhynchus lapathi, have killed extensive areas of young willow in the Nass and Skeena river valleys from Cranberry Junction to Kitimat and Hazelton to Prince Rupert where endemic populations have been common for many years.

Although of little commercially economic importance tree and branch mortality is a concern in urban areas. As young 'whips' and main stems are killed multi-stemmed 'clumps' develop. Cutting and burning of infested material will assist in reducing populations.

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