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# PEST REPORT

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## LARCH BUDMOTH DEFOLIATION OF WESTERN LARCH

### NELSON AND KAMLOOPS REGIONS, 1985

R.L. Ferris & R. Turnquist  
Forest Insect and Disease Survey

Several thousand hectares (up from 1 100 ha in 1984) of western larch forest above 1 200 m elevation between Yahk in the Nelson Region and the Okanagan Valley were moderately or severely defoliated by increased populations of larch budmoth, Zeiraphera improbana.

The most numerous and expansive areas near Yahk and from Salmo to west of Castlegar, will be defined more accurately during aerial surveys in August.

About 700 ha of mature larch in the Kamloops Region were moderately or severely defoliated for the first time since 1976. The defoliated stands ranged from 100 to 300 ha near Anarchist Mountain, in the Vaseaux and Shuttleworth creek drainages east of Okanagan Falls and near King Edward and Aberdeen Lake near Vernon and Lumby, respectively. Defoliation was reported but has yet to be confirmed in Silver Star Provincial Park east of Vernon.

Previous infestations in the same general areas occurred in 1965-66 and 1973-76 and annually since 1983 in the West Kootenay. Based on historical data but subject to change following population surveys in August-September, high populations and some defoliation are expected to occur in 1986.

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