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PEST REPORT

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

March, 1987

Winter Moth, Operophtera brumata egg hatch

in Victoria, B.C.

R.L. Ferris
Forest Insect and Disease Survey

Winter moth has hatched and will soon be defoliating deciduous trees on southern Vancouver Island. First instar larvae were collected on March 9, 1987 at the Pacific Forestry Centre on West Burnside Road. Light defoliation with pockets of moderate defoliation is expected. Winter moth egg hatch is approximately four weeks earlier than in 1986 when larvae were collected on April 3.

The winter moth is an introduced pest of mainly oak, maple and fruit trees. There has been recorded defoliation for the past 15 years. Introduced parasites have reduced the population and extent of the damage.

To control the winter moth, fruit and ornamental trees may be sprayed with insecticides. A first spray as soon as the larvae begins to feed, and a second about 2 weeks later, will reduce the population. Specific information may be obtained from a licensed pesticide dealer.

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