

Canada
PFRC
Pest. rept
91-6-1



Forestry
Canada
Forêts
Canada

library

PEST REPORT

Pacific and Yukon Region • Pacific Forestry Centre • 506 West Burnside Road • Victoria, B.C. • V8Z 1M5

FIDS 91-6-1

WINTER, AND WESTERN, WINTER MOTHS IN THE VANCOUVER REGION

R. Turnquist
Forest Insect and Disease Survey

WINTER MOTH

Winter moth, Operophtera brumata, populations which had defoliated a variety of deciduous hosts throughout the lower mainland and southern Vancouver Island in 1989 and 1990, declined in 1991. Defoliation of maples, birch, oak, ornamental and fruit trees, which had previously resulted in frequent inquiries from homeowners, was very light in small isolated patches. Most patches were in White Rock, Ladner, Richmond, Vancouver, and Victoria, where light to severe defoliation had been common in 1990.

Defoliated trees have fully recovered and show little evidence of decline.

WESTERN WINTER MOTH

Western winter moth, Erannis tiliaria vancouverensis, populations in most previously defoliated maple stands on the Mainland have collapsed. However, at Alexandra Bridge Provincial Park north of Hope, understory maples, alder, willow, and some dogwood, were moderately to severely defoliated. Bigleaf maples were very lightly defoliated for the second consecutive year at Cultus Lake Provincial Park, where a nuclear polyhedrosis virus was isolated from larvae in 1990. Many previously defoliated stands were in, or adjacent to, parks and recreation areas, and larvae were a problem to users.

Defoliation has not reoccurred where patches were common in 1990, near Horseshoe Bay, Squamish, Harrison Lake, Sasquatch Provincial Park, and Hope.

Surveys will continue throughout the summer to monitor populations and determine the extent and incidence of defoliation and its impact, and to assess levels of natural parasites and diseases.

* * * * *