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PEST REPORT

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

FIDS PEST REPORT 92-3

May 1992

A SAWFLY ON COTTONWOOD IN THE FRASER VALLEY

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Forest Insect and Disease Survey

SEP 9 1992

FORESTRY CANADA —
PACIFIC & YUKON REGION
506 W. BURNSIDE RD.
VICTORIA, B.C. V8Z 1M5 CANADA

SUMMARY

Defoliation of mainly native black cottonwood by a cottonwood sawfly, Nematus currani, continued for the second consecutive year on islands in the Fraser River near Chilliwack.

The area of defoliation increased to about 600 ha, up from 50 ha in 1991. Most, 380 ha, was moderately defoliated, 100 ha severely, and 120 ha were lightly defoliated. Most occurred from Herrling Island east of Agassiz to Matsqui Island near Mission, mainly on islands within TFL 43, managed by Scott Paper. Although most of the damage occurred in native black cottonwood, some hybrid poplars in plantations were trace or lightly defoliated.

DETECTION AND DAMAGE

As with other defoliated deciduous trees, a second flush will probably occur later this year. The impact of defoliation will probably be some growth loss in those trees moderately to severely defoliated. Repeated severe defoliation of these high value, fast growing hybrids could reduce their annual incremental potential.

This is the first known outbreak of this pest in British Columbia. Previous records and collections were from single or small groups of defoliated trees. Little is known about the life cycle of this sawfly, however; like other sawflies in British Columbia the larvae pupate in the duff at the end of their larval stage. This sawfly begins feeding as soon as the foliage flushes. Larvae had completed feeding and had begun pupating by the first week of May this year.

MANAGEMENT

The status and potential of this pest will continue to be monitored and reported by the Forest Insect and Disease Survey.