

SEPTEMBER 1992

SUMMARY OF FOREST PEST CONDITIONS
IN THE QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS
VANCOUVER FOREST REGION

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This summary is an overview of some major forest pests active on Queen Charlotte Islands up to early September. A more detailed report on these and other pests, their impact, and some forecasts will be available later in the year.

Surveys were mostly on Graham Island where the most visible and damaging pest was spruce aphid, Elatobium abietinum. Sitka spruce were moderately infested, resulting in discolored and prematurely dropped, mostly older foliage, over about 2950 ha. Affected trees were mostly in coastal areas totaling 2500 ha from Queen Charlotte City to Tlell and near Massett, and on 450 ha in seven separate areas on the northern end of Moresby Island from Gray Bay to Aliford Bay and on the east side of Maude Island. Populations were common, but less damaging on mature spruce at Tow Hill in Naikoon Provincial Park, Misty Meadows Park, Rennell Sound Recreation area, at Bonanza Creek, and on immature spruce in plantations and along roadsides.

Other pest conditions include:

- About 5% of the mature and overmature Sitka spruce in the Tow Hill Ecological Reserve is infected by red ring rot, Fomes pini. External sporophores indicate mostly hollow trees.
- Needles on spruce were severely infected and discolored by labrador tea rust, Chrysomyxa ledicola, and by a needle blight, Lirula macrospora. Infected trees were conspicuous near Bolton Lake north of Port Clements, Rennell Sound, and Yakoun Lake where most year-old needles on half the spruce were infected.
- New buds on spruce at the north end of Graham Island at Tow Hill, Misty Meadows and Cemetery Road were very lightly infested by a defoliator, Zeiraphera sp. This budmoth occasionally is common on the Islands, but rarely as damaging as blackheaded budworm or hemlock sawfly.

- About 1-2 branches on about 5% of the shore pine in bogs between Tlell and Massett were infected and killed by a twig cancer, Atropellis pinicola.
- Year-old needles were discolored and dropped prematurely on about 10-20% of the shore pine over about 10 ha from Pure Lake to Massett due to a pine needle disease, Lophodermella concolor.

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