

**INSECT AND DISEASE WORKSHOPS**

**HINTON**

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## BACKGROUND

In July of 1988, Peter Amirault and Ken Mallett met with Warren Kehr (Land Use/Forest protection Coordinator) of Weldwood of Canada Ltd. (Hinton) to visit sites on the Weldwood FMA with insect and disease problems. Warren Kehr felt that it was important that Weldwood field staff become more familiar with the recognition of insect and disease problems. It was suggested that Forestry Canada insect and disease specialists give an insect and disease workshop in 1989 to provide the necessary training for Weldwood personnel. Later, the Alberta Forest Service requested a similar training session for their field personnel to be held in conjunction with the Weldwood workshop.

## WORKSHOPS

Due to the interest expressed by industry and the AFS three workshops had to be scheduled; two, one day industry workshops and one, two day workshops for AFS personnel. The workshops were held at the Hinton Forestry School on June 5 - 8 and were comprised of lecture style classroom presentations and "hands on" field trips. Twenty three employees of Weldwood, Grande Cache Forest Products and Pelican Timber and one National Parks employee attended the industry workshops. Twenty seven employees from the AFS, including personnel from 6 forest districts, reforestation, protection, and the research branches attended the AFS workshop.

Herb Cerezke, Peter Amirault, and Ken Mallett of Forestry Canada provided the training. Warren Kehr and Hylo McDonald (Edson AFS) made local arrangements and arranged for meeting attendance.

Workshop students were given instruction in recognition of insect and disease pests that cause significant damage in conifer and aspen forests. Efforts were made to present current information on damage and impact of these pests so that the students would gain appreciation for what to be concerned about. Peter Amirault presented the results of the FIDS young stand pest survey that was conducted over the past two years in the Edson, Whitecourt and Grande Prairie Forests. A video entitled "The Hidden Enemy" (23 minutes), produced by Forestry Canada (Great Lakes Forestry Centre), concerning root diseases of conifers was shown to the students. Students were taken to sites on the Weldwood FMA that had various insect and disease problems. These sites included aspen decay, Armillaria root and butt rot, western gall rust, stalactiform blister rust, root collar weevil, terminal weevil, pitch nodule moth, wood borers, spruce cone insects, spruce bud midge, and rabbit damage. The students were taught how to recognize the various problems and control measures were discussed.

The students were asked to fill out a questionnaire provided by the AFS concerning the work shops, the results are attached. In general the industry AFS personnel were very interested and supportive of the workshops and have a great appreciation of insect and disease problems as it affects their operations. Many of the students had questions concerning the various problems seen in the field and felt that the field exercise was essential to the workshop. Forestry Canada personnel felt it was worthwhile in that it is an effective means to present forest insect and disease information collected by FIDS, allowed us to make contacts with industry and AFS personnel, and to

discuss problems that industry and the AFS have. Many of the industry personnel expressed the hope that we would put on the workshop next year. Several Foresters were very interested in our research work and thought that workshops will be essential to them and their companies in view of the "free to grow" legislation.