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FORESTRY BULLETIN

Forest Insect and Disease Conditions in Ontario

Spring Issue

1977



Early evidence of spruce budworm feeding on balsam fir.
Arrows show two whitened mined-out needles and two infested
new shoots (note their ragged and misshapen appearance).

GREAT LAKES FOREST RESEARCH CENTRE
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Forest Insect and Disease Conditions in Ontario

Spring Issue

This is the first of three bulletins to be issued by the Forest Insect and Disease Survey Unit describing forest pest conditions surveyed during the 1977 field season. Mid-season and fall issues are planned for early August and October.

Spruce Budworm, *Choristoneura fumiferana* Clem.

Warm weather late in April and during May has hastened budworm development (see cover) and, if the warm weather continues, damage can be expected to appear earlier than usual this year.

Generalized forecasts of 1977 infestations are provided here for your information. In southern Ontario, where populations have been declining for the third consecutive year, only light defoliation of host trees can be expected except for the Algonquin Region and the northernmost districts of the Eastern Region, where small scattered pockets of moderate-to-heavy infestations persist. Elsewhere, rare instances of moderate defoliation may occur where infestations have been slow to collapse.

In northeastern Ontario, populations vary considerably from district to district. The heaviest damage in the Northern Region is expected in the Cochrane, Timmins, Kirkland Lake and Chapleau districts but parts of the Kapuskasing and Hearst districts are also heavily infested. High damage levels can be expected again in the Northeastern Region but defoliation is likely to be less severe than in 1976 in the southern half of the Wawa District, most of the Sault Ste. Marie, Blind River and Espanola districts, the central part of the Sudbury District and the southwestern half of North Bay District.

In the North Central and Northwestern regions populations are building up north of Lake Superior, but west of Thunder Bay the forecasts are less clear-cut. Densities declined somewhat in 1976 in the Fort Frances, Atikokan and Thunder Bay districts, partly as a result of aerial spraying. However, defoliation can be expected again in the Fort Frances, Atikokan and Thunder Bay districts at levels generally similar to those in 1976. Changes in the budworm population and damage picture in 1977 will be of considerable interest and importance.

Forest Tent Caterpillar, *Malacosoma disstria* Hbn.

Three major areas of outbreak occurred in Ontario in 1976, one extending eastward into northwestern Ontario from the Ontario-Manitoba border, a second in the general area of Hearst, Kapuskasing and Cochrane in the Northern Region, and a third north, east and south of Georgian Bay. Infestations and resulting defoliation of aspen, maple and oak are expected to

create problems again in these areas in 1977. So far the egg hatch and survival of young larvae have been high.

In parts of southern Ontario infestations of the eastern tent caterpillar, *Malacosoma americanum* (F.), overlap infestations of the forest tent caterpillar, thereby creating confusion over the cause of defoliation. Eastern tent caterpillars feed from silken tents whereas forest tent caterpillars feed openly and do not construct tents.

TREE DISEASES

Pathological problems relating to the deterioration of oak and regeneration aspen will be emphasized in 1977. Investigations into the decline of hybrid poplar plantings in southern Ontario are also scheduled.

In addition, surveys for Dutch elm disease will be intensified in the Thunder Bay District following the first positive identification from this part of Ontario, i.e., from south of Thunder Bay, in 1976.

Names, addresses and telephone numbers of Survey Field Technicians who are carrying out surveys of forest pest conditions in the regions beginning May 16, 1977 are listed below.

<u>Regions</u>	<u>Technicians</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Central and	M.J. Applejohn	Box 100, Angus, Ont. LOM 1B0	(705) 424-5721
Southwestern	D.C. Constable	RR #1, St. Williams, Ont. NOE 1P0	(519) 586-2041
Algonquin and	H.J. Weir	c/o OMNR, Minden, Ont. KOM 2K0	(705) 286-2650
Eastern	V. Jansons	PFES, Chalk River, Ont. KOJ 1J0	(613) 589-2932
	C.A. Barnes	Box 1150, Kemptville, Ont. KOG 1J0	(613) 258-5664
Northeastern	K.C. Hall	Box 490, S.S. Marie, Ont. P6A 5M7	(705) 949-9461
	W.D. Biggs	SS #1, Site 5, Box 7, Sudbury, Ont. P3E 1X2	(705) 674-0453
Northern	L.S. MacLeod	Box 267, Temagami, Ont. POH 2H0	(705) 569-3467
	H. Evans	Box 817, Chapleau, Ont. POM 1K0	(705) 864-1042
	J. Hook	Box 202, Moonbeam, Ont. T4N 7J4	(705) 367-2185
North Central	H.R. Foster	Box 495, Geraldton, Ont. POT 1M0	(807) 854-1317
	H.D. Lawrence	RR #1, Postal Station "F", Thunder Bay, Ont. P7C 4T9	(807) 577-8612

<u>Regions</u>	<u>Technicians</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Northwestern	M.J. Thomson	RR #1, Site 5, Box 7, Sioux Lookout, Ont. P0V 2T0	(807) 737-3630
	R.J. Sajan	210 Butler Ave., Ft. Francis, Ont. P9A 2N7	(807) 274-6821

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