

FIDS Pest Report 93-10

July 1993

**SECOND YEAR OF DEFOLIATION BY THE SATIN MOTH
IN THE BOUNDARY FOREST DISTRICT**

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Defoliation of trembling aspen and willow by the satin moth, *Leucoma salicis*, continued for the second year in the Anarchist Mountain to Bridesville area, with expansion to the Rock Creek and to a lesser extent Grand Forks areas. Larvae are currently late instar or pupating. A flight of the large white moths (3- to 5-cm wingspan) will occur from late June into July. There is one generation per year.

Most of the trees have been killed in areas severely defoliated in 1992, in patches totalling about 400 ha. Some of the areas light to moderately defoliated in 1992 have now been severely defoliated, although the extent of current feeding was reduced by the relatively limited and patchy distribution of remaining host trees. Trees currently light to moderately defoliated should recover with a second flush of foliage this summer. Further information about the extent and intensity of current defoliation will be available after aerial surveys in late July.

This European defoliator was accidentally introduced to B.C. in 1920 and first collected in the Nelson Forest Region at Needles in 1963. Several outbreaks have since occurred in the region, with defoliation in the Bridesville area in 1964 and 1984-86. Introduced parasites, a native bacterium, and fungus have helped reduce previous satin moth outbreaks, usually after 3 to 4 years. A larval mass collection is being reared at the Pacific Forestry Centre to determine current parasite and disease levels.
