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PEST REPORT

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

FIDS Pest Report 94-1

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DEFOLIATION OF DECIDUOUS TREES & SHRUBS BY NORTHERN TENT CATERPILLAR ON VANCOUVER ISLAND

C. Wood
Forest Insect and Disease Survey

Colonies of northern tent caterpillar, *Malacosoma californicum pluviale*, are widespread on deciduous trees and shrubs throughout the Greater Victoria area, for the second consecutive year. Severe defoliation is expected in the Gorge Inlet, Colquitz Creek and High Quadra areas. Colonies are also common elsewhere in east coastal areas of Vancouver Island, some Gulf Islands, and near Myra Falls in Strathcona Provincial Park.

These increased high numbers of caterpillars and resulting defoliation of urban trees and shrubs will have a significant impact on aesthetic values and cause inconvenience to property owners and users of public areas.

Populations are expected to persist at high levels, causing significant defoliation of a broad range of deciduous hosts, for an additional 2-3 years. Parasites, predators and virus are expected to reduce the populations significantly by about the fourth year.

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