

FIDS Pest Report 94-6

June 1994

## **FOREST TENT CATERPILLAR INFESTATIONS IN THE CARIBOO FOREST REGION**

R.D. Erickson  
Forest Insect and Disease Survey

Tent caterpillar infestations in trembling aspen in the Cariboo Forest Region expanded to about 58,000 ha from 47,000 ha last year. Light to severely defoliated stands were widespread from north of Quesnel near 10 Mile Lake, south to Horsefly.

Most defoliated stands were in the Quesnel and Quesnel River areas in the Quesnel TSA, where defoliation was light on 5830 ha, moderate over 4520 ha, and severe on 21,800 ha. Defoliation in the Williams Lake TSA was reduced from 1993 and was light on 5100 ha, moderate on 13,420 ha, and severe on 2320 ha. Most was northwest of Likely to Horsefly. There was no defoliation mapped in the 100 Mile House TSA, where only 50 ha were affected last year. The population collapse was attributed to disease and parasitism.

High populations in the city of Quesnel resulted in significant inconvenience to homeowners where masses of larvae migrated into houses and across yards and roads.

Larval feeding is completed and the tent caterpillar population has pupated. Later this summer, large numbers of moths will emerge to lay eggs. Many will be seen swarming around lights at night.

Forest Insect and Disease Survey will sample the population in September to predict infestation levels next year.

\* \* \* \* \*