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PEST REPORT

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

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PINE NEEDLE DISEASE

PRINCE GEORGE FOREST REGION

N. Humphreys
Forest Insect and Disease Survey

The needle cast, *Lophodermella concolor*, has infected foliage of lodgepole pine throughout the southwestern area of the Prince George Forest District and in the southern portion of the Vanderhoof Forest District.

The needle disease is prevalent in 5 -30 year old stands of lodgepole pine in the Blackwater and Chilako river drainages, in stands off the Bobtail Forest Service Road and along Highway 16 from Quesnel to Prince George. The obvious red foliage is most common on the fringes of stands and in the lower crowns of the trees. In some stands up to 90% of the trees are showing some signs of infection and it is not uncommon for individual trees to have 100% of the old foliage discolored.

Over 500 000 ha of infected lodgepole pine was aerially mapped in the Cariboo Forest Region this year.

This disease can cause severe defoliation, growth reduction and sometimes tree mortality. The required climatic conditions, humid weather during needle elongation, for successive years of defoliation resulting in mortality seldom happens.
