

Christmas Tree Scouting

Report #14 – 6/24/09

Weekly newsletter compiled by Sarah Pickel,
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This week's report includes scouting information from: Jim Fogarty (Halabura Tree Farm), Karen Najda (PDA), Brian Schildt (PSU), Linda Signarovitz and Cathy Thomas (PDA).

This will be the final regular scouting report for the 2009 growing season. I will be sending one or two special reports in early August focusing on the second generation of Cryptomeria scale.

The growing degree day totals as of Tuesday, June 23rd are 1,045.5 in Elizabethtown, Lancaster County and 816.5 in New Ringgold, Schuylkill County.

On Fraser and Canaan fir in Schuylkill and York Counties, crawlers of Cryptomeria scale were still on the move and there were also still eggs found under the scale coverings. These eggs will hatch and emerge as crawlers within 1 or two weeks. Growers who already made their first insecticide application for control of Cryptomeria crawlers will need to make a second application 7 to 10 days after the first and possibly a third



Figure 1: Settled Cryptomeria crawlers [Sandy Gardosik, PDA]

application following that, if crawlers are still active. Using a hand lens, look for the crawlers on the undersides of the needles on branches found at the base of the tree. Growers can look for eggs of the second generation of Cryptomeria scale in early August

An important tip when making insecticide or oil applications for either Cryptomeria or Elongate Hemlock scale is to make sure that the grasses

and weeds in the rows between trees are mowed. Good coverage at the base of the trees is essential for achieving control of these scales.

As for Elongate Hemlock Scale, crawlers and eggs are both still present. Growers should keep up with their twelve week spray schedule, whether it be 3 sprays applied every 4 weeks or 4 sprays applied every 3 weeks.

In Adams County, the crawlers of the Striped Pine Scale have emerged on Scotch pine this week. The adult females of this soft scale can be found on the twigs of Scotch and Austrian Pine and are relatively large compared with other scales (>1/4in.). They are brown with cream stripes and have a leathery look. Often, the twigs and foliage infected with this scale will have a black appearance from the sooty mold that develops on the honey dew produced by these



Figure 2: Striped Pine Scale with crawlers [Sandy Gardosik, PDA]

scales. As with other scales, the crawlers are the stage that are most vulnerable to insecticide sprays. An insecticide spray can be applied at this time. A horticultural oil could be effective in the dormant season or during the summer. See the the *2009 Insecticides and Miticides for Christmas Tree Pests* (found at <http://ctrees.cas.psu.edu>) for acceptable treatments.

Spruce spider mites are still active in Adams, Schuylkill and York Counties. Typically, populations fade by this time in the season, but the cooler temperatures we've seen could be prolonging the mite activity. Growers who treated in the spring might consider making another treatment if population levels are high.

Looking toward the end of the season, there are a few things that growers can be reminded

to think about as Fall approaches. Eriophyid mites, cool season pests, may become active as the growing season winds down. These mites cause a russetting of the foliage and are only visible with the aid of a hand lens. Another treatment for these mites may be necessary.

Fall is a wise time for treating cooley spruce gall adelgids on Colorado blue spruce and Douglas fir and eastern spruce gall adelgids on Norway spruce. A dormant oil spray or insecticide spray targeting the unprotected overwintering nymphs will be effective in early October. Remember that use of oil on Colorado blue spruce will remove the blue bloom from the needles.