

Christmas Tree Scouting

Report #13 – 6/17/09

Weekly newsletter compiled by Brian Schildt, PA Department of Agriculture

This week's report includes scouting information from: Jim Fogarty (Halabura Tree Farm), Sandy Gardosik (PDA), Karen Najda (PDA), Brian Schildt (PSU), and Cathy Thomas (PDA).

The growing degree day totals as of Tuesday, June 16th are 897 in Elizabethtown, Lancaster County and 695.5 in New Ringgold, Schuylkill County.



Figure 1: Cryptomeria Scale crawler [Sandy Gardosik, PDA]

Late last week, Cryptomeria Scale crawlers were found in York and Adams Counties on Canaan and Fraser Fir, as well as

Douglas-fir. This week crawlers are being seen on Spruce in York County. They started to

make an appearance in Schuylkill County yesterday morning, on Canaan and Fraser Fir. The crawlers are oval and bright yellow, like Elongate Hemlock Scale crawlers. The scale crawlers (visible using a hand lens) are located on the undersides of the needles, on lower branches of the tree. This life stage is most susceptible to the effects of insecticide sprays. A first application of a registered insecticide can be applied at this time, followed by a second spray, 7-10 days later. A third spray is necessary only if the scale is heavy, which can be done 7-10 days after the second spray. Growers will need to scout for this pest again in early August, as it has two generations.

Elongate Hemlock Scale crawlers were starting to wax over in York County last week. A few crawlers have been seen in Schuylkill County this week. Using a hand lens, growers can see these flat, oval, bright yellow crawlers on the undersides of the needles. The infected branches tend to be at the bottom of the tree, close to the trunk. This is an armored scale,

meaning it has a tough waxy covering. Controlling this pest can be difficult, because all of its life stages may be present at any time during the growing season. Crawlers are the susceptible stage and in being active now, growers can start spraying. The recommended spraying guidelines are either making four sprays three weeks apart or three sprays four weeks apart. A registered insecticide can be found on the [Insecticides & Miticides for PA Christmas Tree Pests](#), which was updated in 2009.

Japanese Scale, a close relative to the Elongate Hemlock Scale has been discovered in York County. It originates from Asia. While not much is known about this scale, it is known to attack conifer species including Cedar, Fir, Hemlock, Juniper, and Yews.

Striped Pine Scale on Scotch Pine is close to emergence.

Late last week, bagworm larvae had emerged and were seen feeding on Douglas-fir in Dauphin

County. In Schuylkill County, bagworm larvae were found last Friday. This week, bagworm larvae have emerged and evidence of their feeding is present on Arborvitae in Lancaster County.

Cooley Spruce Gall Adelgid is currently present. The damage to new growth of Douglas-fir is becoming noticeable, but treatment needs to wait until early fall or early spring, before the adelgids develop their waxy coat.



Figure 2: Striped Pine Scale [Brian Schildt, PSU]



Figure 3: Cooley Spruce Gall Adelgids in the spring [Brian Schildt, PSU]

Be on the look out for Eastern Spruce Galls, as their formation was noted in Adams County last week.

Spruce Spider Mites are still active on new growth. In Schuylkill County, they have been seen on Canaan and Fraser Fir, in addition to Arborvitae. For those of you who grow ornamentals, Two-spotted Spider Mites have been spotted on Arborvitae in Schuylkill County.

Growers may start to see evidence of White Pine Weevil Damage. The damage seen is the wilting or “shepherd’s crook” at the tops of trees. These damaged tops can be pruned out, but remember to remove them from the field.



Figure 4: White Pine Weevil Damage [Sandy Gardosik, PDA]