

# PENNSYLVANIA'S CHRISTMAS TREE SCOUTING REPORT

2010, Report 14: June 23, 2010

Weekly newsletter compiled by Sarah Pickel, PA  
Department of Agriculture.

This week's report includes scouting information from: Jim Fogarty (Halabura Tree Farm), Karen Najda (PDA), Susan Newhart (Arcadia Trees), Linda Signarovitz (scouting consultant), Brian Schildt (PDA), and Cathy Thomas (PDA).

Growing Degree Day totals as of Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, were 1260 in Elizabethtown, Lancaster County, 1221.5 in New Cumberland, Cumberland County, and 997.5 in New Ringgold, Schuylkill County. As of Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, there were 713 GDD in Montrose, Susquehanna County. Regional GDD totals collected last Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> in Northwest PA were as follows: 807 in Clarion County, 757 in Crawford County, 812 in the Millcreek area of Erie County, 728 in the Waterford area of Erie County, 933 in Mercer County and 764 in Warren County. [Northwest data courtesy of Ruth Benner, Extension Educator – Penn State Cooperative Extension, Erie County.]

Eggs and crawlers of *Cryptomeria* scale could still be found in Schuylkill and York Counties this week. Some growers may have already applied the second of the two recommended insecticide applications for this armored scale pest, so these growers may need to think about applying a third insecticide spray. The recommended application interval is a week to 10 days between each spray. This scale pest has two generations each season and crawlers of the second generation may be found between 1750 – 2130 GDD, which is typically in early to mid- August. Growers that were unable to achieve good control with the first generation will have another opportunity with the second generation.



Figure 1: Adult female scale, uncovered, with eggs. [S. Gardosik, PDA]

staggered over approximately 12 weeks. Insecticide applications should continue over this 12 week period, either every 3 weeks (4 applications) or every 4 weeks (3 applications).

Spruce spider mites, which are typically thought of as a cooler season pest, were still active this week on true firs in both Schuylkill and York Counties. Unless a damaging level of mites is found, control applications shouldn't be necessary at this time. Hot summer temperatures will eventually cause this mite to dieback and mites that remain should be killed when growers make insecticide applications targeting *Cryptomeria* or Elongate hemlock scales.

An important thing for growers to remember is to get back to their trees and scout after pesticide applications have been made. Evaluation of pesticide efficacy is a critical step to any control program. A few days after an application, growers should monitor trees that were sprayed to determine if the targeted pest population was affected by the pesticide. This information should be recorded and looked at next season when determining which chemicals to use. How do you know if targeted pests are killed? Both *Cryptomeria* and Elongate Hemlock scale crawlers, which would normally appear buttery yellow, will turn brown or rusty in color when dead and will also look flattened and dried out. Spruce spider mites that have been killed will appear dried out and will be immobile.

The 2010 *Insecticides and Miticides Update for PA Christmas Tree Pests* can be found at the site: <http://ento.psu.edu/extension/christmas-trees/scouting-reports>.

The next scouting report will be available June 30, 2010.

Elongate Hemlock Scale eggs and crawlers were also found in Schuylkill and York Counties this week. Typically, the crawler emergence for this scale is