

# PENNSYLVANIA'S CHRISTMAS TREE SCOUTING REPORT

2011, Report 14: June 22, 2011

Weekly newsletter compiled by Sarah Pickel, PA  
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This week's report includes data from Jim Fogarty (Halabura Tree Farm), Brian Schildt (PDA), and Cathy Thomas (PDA). The links included in several paragraphs lead to fact sheets from the new PA IPM Program publication, *Integrated Pest Management for Christmas Tree Production*.

As of Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, there were 1190.5 growing degree days (GDD) in Elizabethtown, Lancaster County, 1150.5 GDD in New Cumberland, Cumberland County and 1056 GDD in New Ringgold, Schuylkill County. Ground temperatures in New Ringgold, Schuylkill County have fluctuated from the upper 60's to the low -75° F.

This week in both Schuylkill and York Counties, mobile *Cryptomeria* crawlers were found on the foliage of Fraser and Canaan firs. [Fig. 1] The rate of crawler emergence is slowing down somewhat as the amount of settled crawlers



Figure 1: *Cryptomeria* scale crawler (top), settled crawler and adult [S. Pickel, PDA]

grows. If growers have already made their 1 or 2 pesticide applications, they should look closely at their scale population with a hand lens to see if they see live crawlers (bright yellow and plump) or dead crawlers (tan or brown and dried out). If growers still see live crawlers, they can consider making a 3<sup>rd</sup> application to achieve better control, or they can wait to treat the scales again during the second generation. Crawlers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation of *Cryptomeria* should be seen during the range of 1750 – 2130 GDD.

~ <http://extension.psu.edu/ipm/program/christmas-tree/pest-fact-sheets/needle-discoloration-and-injury/cryptomeria-scale.pdf/view>

The crawlers of Elongate Hemlock Scale can still be found on the foliage of Fraser and Canaan firs and Douglas-fir in Schuylkill and York Counties. Growers who began an application series for this pest should remember to

continue through the full three month period. For more information on this scale, visit: <http://extension.psu.edu/ipm/program/christmas-tree/pest-fact-sheets/needle-discoloration-and-injury/elongate-hemlock-scale.pdf/view>

In Schuylkill County, crawlers of Fletcher scale were settling on the foliage of Arborvitae. There were still crawlers found underneath the female scale cover, so emergence may continue for another week or two. An insecticide application made at this time may still be effective. This landscape pest can be found on Arborvitae, cedar, hemlock, juniper, and yew. For more info, visit Penn State's Fletcher scale fact sheet at: <http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/fletcher-scale>.

One thing to consider when deciding to make extra insecticide applications at this point in the season is the effect that these summer applications can have on beneficial insects that are active at this time. Many predators that feed on adelgids, aphids, and scales can be seen now. Helpful lady beetles like the twice stabbed lady beetle, the seven-spotted lady beetle and others have been seen in larger numbers this past week. Some other insects that may be seen at this time are praying mantids, soldier beetles and hoverflies.



Figure 2: Seven spotted lady beetle feeding on pine bark adelgid. [S. Gardosik, PDA]

A list of insecticides and miticides registered for use Pennsylvania, prepared by PA IPM Program scouting consultant, Brian Schildt, can be found on the Penn State Christmas tree website: (<http://ento.psu.edu/extension/christmas-trees>).

The next scouting report will be available June 29, 2011.