

PENNSYLVANIA'S CHRISTMAS TREE SCOUTING REPORT

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Weekly newsletter compiled by Sarah Pickel, PA
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This week's report includes data from Jim Fogarty (Halabura Tree Farm), Karen Najda (PDA), Susan Newhart (Acadia 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, May 31st, there were 852.5 growing degree days (GDD) in Elizabethtown, Lancaster County, 830.5 GDD in New Cumberland, Cumberland County, 741.5 GDD in New Ringgold, Schuylkill County and 366 GDD in Montrose, Susquehanna County. Ground temperatures in New Ringgold, Schuylkill County have fluctuated in the upper 60's (° F).

Today, crawlers of Cryptomeria scale were found on the needles of hemlocks and Fraser and Canaan firs in Lancaster in York Counties. Yellow, oval-shaped crawlers were found moving on the undersides of the needles. [Fig. 1] There were also settled crawlers present, which have developed light creamy coverings, the start of the protective scale coats. As of this week, no crawlers were found yet in Schuylkill County. The



Figure 3: *Cryptomeria* scale adult and crawler [S. Pickel, PDA]

presence of these crawlers among the adult scales signals the time to begin a control program. The crawlers will emerge over a period of several weeks, so 2 or possibly 3 applications of an insecticide, with a week to 10 days between, may be necessary to control these scales. Because this scale is found at the base of the tree, controls need to be able to penetrate those lower branches. To achieve the most effective insecticide coverage, growers should make sure to mow the rows among the tree blocks before applying their insecticides.

<http://extension.psu.edu/ipm/program/christmas->

[tree/pest-fact-sheets/needle-discoloration-and-injury/cryptomeria-scale.pdf/view](http://extension.psu.edu/ipm/program/christmas-tree/pest-fact-sheets/needle-discoloration-and-injury/cryptomeria-scale.pdf/view)

In both Schuylkill and York Counties, the bright yellow crawlers of Elongate Hemlock Scales continued to



Figure 1: *Elongate hemlock* scale female with crawlers [S. Gardosik, PDA]

emerge on Fraser and Canaan firs. [Fig. 2] This is another armored scale much like *Cryptomeria* scale, except that instead of one type of scale, the males and females of elongate hemlock scale are two different colors. Female scales have brown, smooth coverings and male scales have white, somewhat waxy coverings. Growers should be looking for these scales on the undersides of needles, on branches near the base of the tree. Spray series for this pest may have already begun. That is 3 sprays with 4 weeks between each spray or 4 sprays with 3 weeks between.

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

On Douglas-fir in Northern York County, Bagworm



Figure 2: *Young bagworm* larvae [S. Pickel, PDA]

larvae continue to grow and increase the size of their cases. [Fig. 3] Their feeding is also causing more damage to the needles. Soon they will be consuming whole needles. At this stage, while larvae were approximately ¼ inch, they should still be able to be controlled with an insecticide or Bt product. As they increase in size, along with the size of their bags, the larvae will less susceptible to these chemicals.

<http://extension.psu.edu/ipm/program/christmas->

[tree/pest-fact-sheets/needle-discoloration-and-injury/bagworm.pdf/view](#)

Lastly, in Schuylkill County, the crawlers of Fletcher scale have emerged on Arborvitae. This soft scale pest of landscape trees such as cedar, juniper and yew is light brown in color and round in shape. [Fig. 4] The crawlers are tan or amber colored and can be found moving on the foliage around the adult scales. They can be controlled at this time with an insecticide application targeting the crawlers.



Figure 4: Fletcher scale [Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org]

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 15, 2011.