

PENNSYLVANIA'S CHRISTMAS TREE SCOUTING REPORT

JUNE 20, 2012

Weekly newsletter compiled by Sarah Pickel, PA
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GDD TOTALS AS OF TUESDAY, 6/19/12:

LOCATION	GDD TOTAL
Elizabethtown, Lancaster County	1192.5
Hallstead, Susquehanna County	759
New Cumberland, York County	1221
New Ringgold, Schuylkill County	1128

2ND GROWTH ON DOUGLAS-FIR

In much of the mid-state (Cumberland, Lancaster, Schuylkill and York Counties), a second flush of



Figure 1: Lammas growth on Douglas-fir, 6.20.12 [S. Pickel, PDA]

a second flush of Douglas-fir new growth has begun. This flush of summer growth is referred to as "Lammas growth" and can be found on several species of conifers. It is not unusual for some trees to exhibit Lammas growth, while other trees of the same species do not. This growth has begun earlier than usual this year. This is typically seen in July, but likely started sooner because of the early start of warm temperatures this season.

CRYPTOMERIA SCALE

The movement of Cryptomeria scale crawlers has slowed on Fraser fir in Schuylkill County this week. In Lancaster and York Counties, crawler movement has also slowed a great deal. There were still a few crawlers found underneath the adult scale covers, but these were on farms where insecticide treatments had been made and all crawlers found were dead. To determine if crawlers are still active on their own farms, growers should scout



Figure 2: Adult Cryptomeria scale with crawler [S. Pickel, PDA]

with a hand lens to look for active crawlers (bright yellow and oval) moving on the needles or scrape back adult scales using a fingernail. If growers find a considerable amount of crawlers still, they may want to make a 3rd insecticide application. If additional crawlers are not found, then the population can be left alone until mid- to late July, when we may expect to see 2nd generation eggs forming. For more information on Cryptomeria scale, visit:

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

OTHER PESTS

Spruce spider mites are still active on Frasers in Schuylkill and York Counties this week.

Populations of these red-brown mites that were not managed earlier in the spring will continue to multiply, as well as feed and damage foliage. These mites may be found on a number



of conifers including true firs, spruce, Douglas-fir and arborvitae. If a population of active spider mites is found on the twigs or needles of any of these trees, a miticide or insecticide could be applied. For more information on spruce spider mite visit:

<http://extension.psu.edu/ipm/program/christmas-tree/pest-fact-sheets/needle-discoloration-and-injury/spruce-spider-mite.pdf/view>.

Damage from white pine weevil feeding has begun to be noticeable in New Ringgold,



Figure 4 & 5: Wilted leader caused by white pine weevil; contrast of damaged wood with healthy wood - cut out leaders to level where healthy wood is reached. [PDA]

Schuylkill County at this time. The typical wilting of the leader, often referred to as a "shepherd's crook" is becoming prominent. The weevil larvae that have been feeding in the vascular tissue of the leader and main stem have girdled the leader, cutting off flow of water and nutrients. This causes the wilting of the leader. Growers can remove these damaged leaders to help control next season's population. It is important to cut the leader low enough so that the larvae are actually

removed. Growers should cut below where the bark tissue is soft or dark brown [See figure]. It is also best to remove the leaders from the field so that larvae or pupae in the cut leaders do not emerge and overwinter. For more information on the white pine weevil, visit:

<http://extension.psu.edu/ipm/program/christmas-tree/pest-fact-sheets/shoot-and-branch-injury/white-pine-weevil.jpg/view>.

I have received a few questions from growers asking if I've seen Diplodia on Douglas-fir this year, and my response is that I've only seen one suspected case of that this season. Diplodia tip blight causes dieback of this season's growth and is most commonly a disease of hard-needed

needles. The new shoots will be browned and wilted. There was a greater than usual amount of Diplodia tip blight on Douglas-fir in the 2011 growing season because we had very wet conditions that spring. Sometimes frost damage can be confused with Diplodia. Growers who are unsure if they are dealing with frost or Diplodia damage may want to take a closer look at the point where the wilted new growth joins with last season's twig. In the case of frost damage, the buds will be stunted and brown, but the browning will end at the point where it joins to last season's twig. With Diplodia, the new growth will appear wilted (curling downward as in Figure 6 below) and the browning will likely continue into last season's twig as the infection spreads. If growers would like more information on Diplodia (including control information), they can visit:

<http://extension.psu.edu/plant-disease-factsheets/all-fact-sheets/sphaeropsis-or-diplodia-on-pine>

or,

<http://extension.psu.edu/ipm/program/christmas-tree/pest-fact-sheets/shoot-and-branch-injury/diplodia.pdf/view>.



Figure 6: Diplodia tip blight on Douglas-fir. [T. Olson, PDA]

A list of Pennsylvania's registered miticides and insecticides, entitled *2011 Insecticides and Miticides for Christmas Tree Pests*, can be found at the Penn State Christmas tree Website, <http://ento.psu.edu/extension/christmas-trees>,

The next scouting report will be available June 27, 2012.