

PENNSYLVANIA'S CHRISTMAS TREE SCOUTING REPORT

JUNE 6, 2012

Weekly newsletter compiled by Sarah Pickel, PA
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GDD TOTALS AS OF TUESDAY, 6/5/12:

LOCATION	GDD TOTAL
Elizabethtown, Lancaster County	908.5
Hallstead, Susquehanna County	561
New Cumberland, York County	947.5
New Ringgold, Schuylkill County	854

CRYPTOMERIA SCALE

Today in New Ringgold, Schuylkill County, Cryptomeria scale crawlers were beginning to emerge on trees in warm, southern facing fields. In other fields in that area, only scale eggs were found. Timing of spray applications may vary from field to field. For growers who do not know if they have this pest, scout the lower branches of true firs (Fraser, Canaan & Concolor) and spruces, looking for yellow speckling on the upper surface of the foliage. On the underside of the speckled needles, there will be white and yellow adult female scales. The crawlers will be much smaller than the female scales. These tiny, bright yellow ovals will be moving along the needle around the adult scales, or they will be settling in one place on the needle underside and beginning to develop a cream-colored covering [Fig. 1].

Growers in Schuylkill County who have found Cryptomeria scale crawlers on their farms should consider applying an insecticide by either the end of this week or the beginning of next week. In York County, growers began making their applications last week. The suggested control method is to make at least two applications of a



Figure 1: Settled *Cryptomeria* scale crawlers [PDA]

registered insecticide, 7 to 10 days apart. It is important for growers to monitor their scale populations a few days after their 2nd application to determine if a third spray would be necessary. If eggs or crawlers are found underneath the adult scale covers, a third spray may be beneficial. (Use your finger nail to scrape the scale cover and a hand lens to see crawlers.) 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



Figure 2: *Eriophyid* mites [S. Gardosik, PDA]

Growers may be continuing to see Eriophyid or rust mites on foliage and causing damage. This mite is considered a cool season pest and is typically active in the early spring and later in the fall, while spending the hot summer months as a resting egg stage. However in Schuylkill County this week, heavy numbers of Eriophyid mites were found moving on foliage of spruces. If populations were

not managed this spring, growers may need to treat for this pest at this time to prevent rusting damage to new foliage. For more info on rust mites, visit:

<http://extension.psu.edu/ipm/program/christmas-tree/pest-fact-sheets/needle-discoloration-and-injury/eriphyid-rust-sheath-mites.pdf/view>.

On Arborvitae in Schuylkill County, there were still



Figure 3: Crawlers underneath a Fletcher scale [John A. Weidhass, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Bugwood.org]

no crawlers of Fletcher scale found this week. Underneath the adult scales, only eggs were found. The eggs had begun to mature, however, changing from a cream color to more of an amber brown. Growers may expect to see crawler emergence in the next week or two.

For more information on Fletcher scale, visit:

<http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/fletcher-scale>.

DISEASE UPDATE

Fruiting bodies of Spruce needle rust were found to be dried up on Colorado blue and Serbian spruces in New Ringgold, Schuylkill County. This signals the end of spore release, so growers in that area may be able to end their fungicide applications for this disease. For more information on Spruce Needle Rust, visit:

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

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 13, 2012.