

PENNSYLVANIA'S CHRISTMAS TREE SCOUTING REPORT

JUNE 20, 2013

Weekly newsletter compiled by Sarah Pickel, PA
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This week's scouting data contributors:
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GROWING DEGREE DAY TOTALS, 6/19/13:

LOCATION	GDD TOTAL
Mount Joy Twp, Elizabethtown (NE), Lancaster Co.	964
Hallstead, Susquehanna Co.	700
Indiana, Indiana Co.*	841
New Cumberland, York Co.	925.5
New Ringgold, Schuylkill Co.	907.5

* Figure courtesy of www.weather.com.

CRYPTOMERIA SCALE

Crawlers of Cryptomeria scale were found moving around on Fraser fir foliage early this week in Schuylkill County. They were also found to have quickly settled and begun to form a light scale covering.



Figure 1: Cryptomeria scale adults and crawlers [C. Thomas, PDA]

In other areas where crawlers had been seen for over a week, such as Lancaster and York Counties, there were more crawlers found moving on the needles, however there were still eggs underneath the adult coverings (about 50% hatch). This is the time when growers should be applying insecticides to trees with scale populations. Depending on the insecticide product used, there may be

some residual effectiveness, however, it is still recommended to make a second application 7-10

days after the first. This issue with delaying applications could be that 1) crawlers that are allowed to settle and build up their scale coverings may be too protected to be affected by the pesticide and 2) they may immediately begin to cause feeding damage (a light yellow speckling on the upper surface of the needles). Although this damage may be covered up with next season's growth, the discoloration will not go away.

As was mentioned last week, a high concentration of tall weeds among the tree rows can prevent insecticides from thoroughly covering infected foliage on the lower tree branches. Fields that have been recently mowed have a better chance of seeing positive control results. 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/view>.

ELONGATE HEMLOCK SCALE

Elongate hemlock scale crawlers continue to move on true fir and Douglas-fir foliage in Dauphin, Schuylkill and York Counties this week. Eggs were still also found under the adult female scales. Growers who have an issue with this pest and have seen crawlers should have already made their first insecticide applications. Staggering 3-4 applications though the growing season is required to get the best control of this pest. For more information on Elongate Hemlock Scale visit:

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



Figure 2: Elongate hemlock scale female with crawlers [S. Gardosik, PDA]

tree/pest-fact-sheets/needle-discoloration-and-injury/elongate-hemlock-scale.pdf/view.

The next scouting report will be available June 27, 2013.

FLETCHER SCALE

This week in Schuylkill County, crawlers were found underneath adult Fletcher scales on Arborvitae. This brown, dome-shaped, soft scale



Figure 3: Fletcher scale on white cedar [Steven Katovich, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org]

can be a pest of concern for growers of arborvitae, cedar, hemlock, juniper and yew. There were still eggs found under the adult scales also, and no crawlers were found moving around on the needles. For this reason, it could still be a few days until crawlers begin to venture out from under the adults. The growing degree day range for this

crawler emergence is 1029-1388 GDD. This pest secretes honey dew, which can cause a build-up of unsightly, black sooty mold on the foliage. If the scale is a problem, growers can make an insecticide application when they begin to see the tan-colored crawlers moving on the foliage.

For more information on Fletcher scale, visit: <http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/pdf/fletcherScale.pdf>.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

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>.

A great source for in-depth pest information and scouting suggestions is the PA IPM Program publication, *Integrated Pest Management for Christmas Tree Production: A Guide for Pennsylvania Growers*, available for free download (<http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/FreePubs/pdfs/agrs117.pdf>) or for purchase from the PSU College of Agriculture Publications office (phone: 814-865-6713, fax: 814-863-5560, e-mail: AgPubsDist@psu.edu). Ask for publication item # AGRS-117.