

# PENNSYLVANIA'S CHRISTMAS TREE SCOUTING REPORT

## SPECIAL UPDATE: AUGUST 15, 2013

Newsletter compiled by Sarah Pickel, PA Department of Agriculture. This week's scouting data contributors are Sarah Pickel and Brian Schildt (PDA).

### GDD TOTALS AS OF TUESDAY, 8/14/13:

LOCATION	GDD TOTAL
Indiana, Indiana Co.*	2011
Mount Joy Twp., Elizabethtown (NE), Lancaster Co.	2470
New Cumberland, York Co.	2380.5
State College, Centre Co.*	2059

\* Figure courtesy of [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com).

### CRYPTOMERIA SCALE 2<sup>ND</sup> GENERATION

In York County yesterday, the first Cryptomeria scale crawlers were found under a few adult scales. The hatch was very light, though. A very small percentage of the eggs underneath the scales had hatched and there was no movement of crawlers on the needles. In Lancaster County, there was no



Figure 1: Adult female Cryptomeria scale with cover peeled back to reveal eggs [S. Pickel, PDA]

hatching of crawlers observed. Only eggs were found underneath the adult scales. Growers are waiting for the flat, oval-shaped yellow crawlers to hatch and move out along the foliage before making an insecticide application. The scale crawlers will typically hatch from the eggs underneath the adult scale cover in about 2 weeks. The growing degree day range for this occurrence is

1,750 – 2,130 GDD (based on observations in PA), so base on totals in the Lancaster and York area we would expect the egg hatch to happen soon.

Growers can make an insecticide application when they first notice the crawlers moving about on the needles. A second application can be made 7 to 10

days after the first. To scout for the movement of crawlers on the needles, a hand lens is needed. It is also helpful to have a pin available to scrape off the adult scale covering and look at the eggs surrounding the round, plump adult scales. If there is movement among these eggs, it means the crawlers have begun to hatch.

Cryptomeria scales will be found on the lower, interior branches of host trees, which are true firs (Fraser, Canaan, Concolor) and occasionally spruces and Douglas-fir. Look for them on the underside of twigs with needles showing a yellow speckling on the upper surface.

Temperatures are expected to increase next week, so crawlers may be found in other areas of the state. Another report will be sent out to give updates from additional areas.

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>.

For a listing of insecticides and miticides registered for use on Christmas trees in PA, visit the Penn State Christmas tree Website at <http://ento.psu.edu/extension/christmas-trees>.