

PENNSYLVANIA'S CHRISTMAS TREE SCOUTING REPORT

SPECIAL UPDATE: AUGUST 22, 2013

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

GDD TOTALS AS OF TUESDAY, 8/21/13:

LOCATION	GDD TOTAL
Indiana, Indiana Co.*	2130
Mount Joy Twp, Elizabethtown (NE), Lancaster Co.	2612.5
New Cumberland, York Co.	2507
State College, Centre Co.*	2186.5

* Figure courtesy of www.weather.com.

CRYPTOMERIA SCALE 2ND GENERATION

Cryptomeria scale crawlers, or newly-hatched nymphs, were found moving on the needles of true firs in northern Dauphin, Lebanon, Schuylkill and York Counties this week. These crawlers are the only exposed life stage in the Cryptomeria scale life cycle, and are therefore the stage that is the most susceptible to insecticide applications. For growers who didn't apply an insecticide during the first generation of this scale in June, or who were not pleased with the level of control they got from the first generation sprays, the first sign of crawler movement along the foliage is a signal to make an insecticide application.



Figure 1: Adult Cryptomeria scale (left) and crawler (right) [S. Pickel, PDA]

Because crawler emergence can often be stretched out over several weeks, it may be beneficial to make a second application 7-10 days after the first. Before making an insecticide application, it is recommended that growers mow the tree blocks that they plan to spray. Tall weeds can prevent thorough coverage, which is needed to control this pest. Growers should

continue to monitor their scale population after the first application to determine if the population is being effectively controlled. Dead crawlers will turn brown.

When scouting for Cryptomeria scale crawlers, begin with the lower, interior branches of true firs (Fraser and Canaan seem to be favorite hosts) and look for twigs showing yellow speckling on the upper needle surfaces. On the undersides of these twigs, tiny yellow ovals moving along the needles, among the larger, covered, adult scales. (A hand lens is necessary to observe this!) The adult scales have oval-shaped, off-white coverings with yellow centers (somewhat resembling a fried egg). Typically, the growing degree day range for the 2nd generation crawler emergence is 1,750 – 2,130 GDD (based on observations in PA), however the emergence may begin after the GDD total has passed this range. 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>.