



PENNSYLVANIA'S CHRISTMAS TREE SCOUTING REPORT

THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2016

Weekly newsletter compiled by Sarah Pickel, PA Department of Agriculture. This week's scouting data contributors: Jim Fogarty (Halabura Tree Farm), Sarah Pickel and Cathy Thomas (PDA).

GROWING DEGREE DAY TOTALS, 6/29/16:

LOCATION	GDD TOTAL
Indiana, Indiana Co.	1022
Montoursville, Lycoming Co.	1066.5
Elizabethtown, Lancaster Co.	1283.5
New Cumberland, York Co.	1307
New Ringgold, Schuylkill Co.	1242.5

* Figures courtesy of www.accuweather.com.

Throughout the month of July, new pest activity in Christmas tree farms drops significantly, so the scouting report also takes a break. This will be the last regular Christmas tree scouting report for the 2016 growing season. Growers can look for 1 or 2 special update reports on the 2nd generation of Cryptomeria scale in early August. Next season's regular scouting reports will begin in mid-March.

CRYPTOMERIA SCALE

This week in Central Pennsylvania, the Cryptomeria



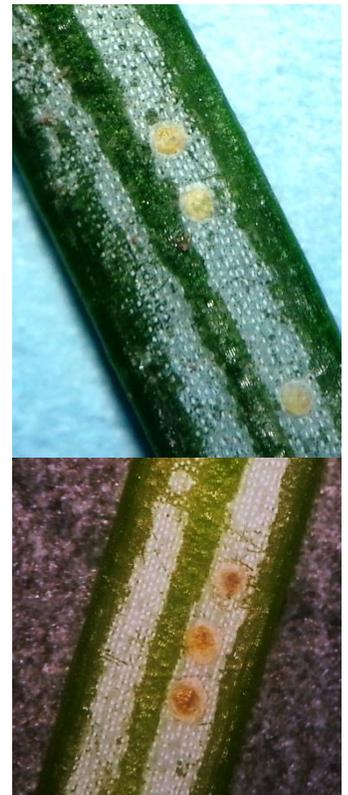
Uncovered female scale with eggs [B. Schildt, PDA]

scale population appeared to slow its emergence, as there were very few eggs left under female scale covers. Growers should be checking host trees (true firs, spruce, hemlocks and Douglas-fir) for the presence of eggs or crawlers underneath the adult scales to see if the scales are still active.

Checking this with only the use of a hand lens can be somewhat challenging, but not impossible. After using a fingernail or a pin to gently scrape back the waxy cover of the white and yellow scales found on the underside of yellow speckled needles, growers can

look under the hand lens to see if there are very tiny, yellow, capsule-shaped eggs around the round, yellow female scales.

In areas where crawlers are still on the move, or where the scales still have eggs underneath the adult scale covers, a further application of insecticide may be necessary. If there are no longer eggs underneath here, then insecticide applications should not have to be continued. Typically, two applications of an insecticide are sufficient; however, sometime a third is required when there are still eggs found under the scale covers. The second generations of Cryptomeria scale occurs early in August (GDD range of 1,750 – 2,130). If the control window is missed with the first generation, growers can attempt to get the population under control during the second generation.



Above: Healthy Cryptomeria scale settled crawlers are lemon yellow. Below: Dead scale crawlers are brown [S. Pickel, PDA]

PINE NEEDLE SCALE



One pest that will emerge during the month of July is the 2nd generation of the pine needle scale. While this white, oblong, hard scale can be found on Eastern white pine and a variety of hard pine, it is rarely a serious issue on Eastern white pine. For growers of Scotch and other hard pines, there is a chance



Pine needle scale on Scotch pine [C. Thomas, PDA]

that this pest can affect the health of the trees if the population is heavy enough. Growers who have had an issue with this scale may see the burgundy colored crawlers moving on the needles of new growth during the latter part of July. If growers are concerned about the size of the scale

population in their pines can make 1 or 2 insecticide applications (7-10 days apart) when the crawlers have just emerged.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE

For a list of control options for insect and mite pests, the most recently updated list of Insecticides & Miticides for PA Christmas Tree Pests can be found at the following link:

<http://ento.psu.edu/extension/christmas-trees/publications/2013%20Christmas%20Tree%20Insecticides-Miticides.pdf>.