



PENNSYLVANIA'S CHRISTMAS TREE SCOUTING REPORT

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2017

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

GROWING DEGREE DAY TOTALS FROM 6/15/17:

LOCATION	GDD TOTAL
Elizabethtown, Lancaster Co.	995.5
Indiana, Indiana Co.	823.5
Montoursville, Lycoming Co.	827
New Cumberland, York Co.	1074.5
New Ringgold, Schuylkill Co.	928.5

CRYPTOMERIA SCALE

The armored scale pest, Cryptomeria scale is a pest of concern for many true fir growers in central Pennsylvania. In southern York County this week,



Adult Cryptomeria scale and crawler (arrow) [S. Pickel, PDA]

and last, a few tiny, yellow Cryptomeria scale crawlers were seen moving along the needles of Canaan and Fraser firs. There were some crawlers found under the adult scale coverings, however, the majority of eggs underneath these coverings still had not hatched into crawlers. In Schuylkill County and northern Dauphin County this week, there

were still only eggs underneath the scale coverings and no crawlers were found moving about on the needles. The crawler emergence may be drawn out over a period of approximately 3 weeks (although sometimes longer). It typically takes

place in the range of 600-800 GDD. After a short time, the moving crawlers will find a place on the underside of a needle to settle, or permanently stay in place. The settled crawlers begin to build up protective, white coverings.

Growers who have observed the yellow, speckled damage from this pest and the scales causing this damage should definitely consider taking control action against the first generation of crawlers. Two applications of an insecticide should be made (7-10 apart) so that the product will penetrate the lower, interior branches, where the scale infestation is located. Growers who miss the window for control with this generation will have a second chance sometime in August when the second-generation crawlers emerge (approximately 1,750-2,130 GDD).

Because these insects are concentrated at the base of the trees, weeds can be big a problem when trying to achieve good insecticide coverage.

Growers will see the best control results if the rows between the trees are mowed before making any control applications. 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>

FLETCHER SCALE

Late this week in Schuylkill County, just a few Fletcher scale crawlers were found moving around on foliage of Arborvitae and also underneath the adult Fletcher scales. This brown, dome-shaped, soft scale can be a pest of concern for growers of arborvitae, cedar, hemlock, juniper



Fletcher scale with crawlers underneath [John A. Weidhass, Virginia Tech University, Bugwood.com]

and yew. There were mostly eggs found under the adult scales, and only about half of the eggs had



Fletcher scale with crawlers [S. Pickel, PDA]

changed color from creamy to darker tan/peach (a color change which indicates that crawlers will soon hatch). For this reason, it could still be a few days until a flush of 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>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE

More information on Christmas tree pests and production is available at the PSU Department of Entomology's Christmas tree site:

<http://ento.psu.edu/extension/christmas-trees>.

The next scouting report will be available Friday, June 23, 2017.