



PENNSYLVANIA'S CHRISTMAS TREE SCOUTING REPORT

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 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 7/4/17:

LOCATION	GDD TOTAL
Elizabethtown, Lancaster Co.	1503
Indiana, Indiana Co.	1193
Montoursville, Lycoming Co.	1266
New Cumberland, York Co.	1577
New Ringgold, Schuylkill Co.*	1345

*Figure from 6/28/17

As new pest activity hits a lull in the month of July, this will be the last regular weekly scouting report of the growing season. There will be a few special pest updates later in the summer.

CRYPTOMERIA SCALE



Cryptomeria scale crawlers recently settled [S. Pickel, PDA]

Last week in York County, there were very few eggs left under female Cryptomeria scales on Fraser fir. Also, any crawlers found were settled and covered over, so this signals that the time of crawler emergence for this generation is coming to an end. It is the crawlers that should be targeted with insecticide sprays as they are the most vulnerable. In

York, Lancaster and Schuylkill Counties, some growers had already made these insecticide

applications. The crawler emergence may be drawn out over a period of approximately 3 weeks (or longer), so growers should observe the undersides of branches with yellow-spotted scale damage to see if the tiny, bright yellow crawlers are still active. If this window was missed, there is a second opportunity to treat for this armored scale pest. The second generation of this scale occurs in early August (approximately 1,750-2,130 GDD). 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>

2ND GENERATION OF PINE NEEDLE SCALE

For growers who have had an issue with controlling pine needle scale, there will be another chance to control it in July. The

crawlers of this hard scale pest of pines had settled several weeks ago and have matured. They will lay eggs at the beginning of July. Later in the month, the eggs will hatch and 2nd generation crawlers will move out from under the scale coverings to settle on new



Pine needle scale with crawlers [S. Pickel, PDA]

needles. If this scale population is heavy and was not controlled during the 1st generation, an insecticide or horticultural oil application can be made when the brick red crawlers emerge. A repeat application may be necessary 7 - 10 days later.

REMOVING WHITE PINE WEEVIL DAMAGE

If growers are noticing dead, wilted leaders in blocks of white pine, spruce or Douglas-fir at this time, it could be damage from white pine weevil. One way to help prevent an increase in damage occurring next season is to cut off and burn (or bag) the curled, wilted leaders. This is the time to remove these leaders because white pine weevil adults would soon be emerging from their pupal stage to chew their way out of the leaders.



White pine weevil damaged Serbian spruce leader [S. Pickel, PDA]

Removing the "shepherd's crook" leaders, will remove the developing pupae from the field. When cutting out the damaged leaders, it is important that growers cut down to the good wood, which is below the point where the brown dead tissue caused by the weevil feeding is found. Those who found considerable damage this season, may want to consider setting up weevil traps next spring to pinpoint the exact time of weevil emergence on their farms. This helps to time insecticide applications to target the adult stage before eggs are laid.

LOOKING AHEAD



Eastern spruce gall adelgid overwintering nymphs [R. Lehman, PDA]

the overwintering nymphs settle at the bases of

spruce buds or on the Douglas-fir needles and will remain uncovered until the following spring, when they develop their protective waxy coverings. Insecticides can be applied when the nymphs are settled. Dormant oils can also be quite effective and safe; however, these should not be applied to blue spruce, as they will remove the blue bloom of the needles.

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>.

Remember – Fall is the optimum time to apply control treatments for spruce gall adelgids – both for Cooley spruce gall adelgid, found on Colorado blue spruce and Douglas-fir, as well as for the Eastern spruce gall adelgids, found on Norway spruce. Typically in the range of 2,800 – 3,000 GDD (usually October),