

Bark Beetles Enemy Of Area Woodlots

By JACK MACE
State Forest Patrol

Now that spring is here, woodland owners should inspect their forests to determine if they have bark beetles. Tree killing bark beetles are the principal insect enemies of Jackson and Josephine county forests.

The habits of each species of bark beetle differ in some particulars, but the life histories of all species generally follow the same pattern. In all cases only two life stages cause damage, larva and adult beetles attack a tree by boring through the outer layers of bark and tunneling between the bark and the wood. In these tunnels or galleries, the female beetles deposit their eggs. Construction of egg galleries starts a girdling process within the tree which is completed by the larva.

The larva, after emerging from the eggs, also mine between the bark and the wood. They feed upon the plant tissue beneath the bark and in the process extend their mines away from the egg galleries. Eventually the area between the bark and the wood is completely riddled with egg and larval galleries, and the tree dies.

Most trees are not vulnerable until they reach the pole stage (5 to 11 inches in diameter). Mature and over mature trees are more likely to be attacked than the younger trees. Symptoms of bark beetle attack vary considerably, depending upon the beetle, the tree attacked, and the time of year the attack takes place. One of the first things to watch for is the appearance of faded or "red-topped" trees in the stand. In trees attacked by bark beetles the entire crown usually changes from green to straw color, then to reddish brown as the beetles gradually girdle the tree. During epidemics, "red-topped" trees are conspicuous both by their numbers and by their tendency to occur in groups.

Other Clues Given
Other clues to beetle attack may be found by examining the trunk. Pines attacked by the Western pine beetle, mountain pine beetle, or Jeffrey pine beetle usually bear pitch tubes. These are brownish or whitish masses of boring dust and pitch on the outside of the bark at points where the beetles have penetrated to start egg tunnels. Bark beetles that attack

Douglas fir or true fir, and engravers that attack pines, do not make pitch tubes. The only outward signs of attack are their entrance holes and boring dust. Final proof of bark beetle attack for any species can be obtained by removing a section of bark. If beetles are present, galleries will be found etching the wood and inner bark.

Once bark beetles have become established in a tree, all that can be done is to fell and treat the infested part of the tree so as to destroy the insects. Treat individual trees as rapidly as damage appears. Do not wait until groups of damaged trees show up, for by that time a full fledged epidemic may be in progress. Apply control measures promptly before new broods of beetles develop in the infested tree and emerge to attack new trees.

Use any one of the following methods of control: 1. Fell-Peel-Burn. Peel bark from tree, then pile bark and slash along the sides of tree, and set on fire. 2. Fell-Spray... after felling, limb tree and buck trunk into lengths that can be rolled. Treat all of the infested bark surface with insecticide, applied with a sprayer. Use Ortho-dichlorobenzene at the rate of 1 part to 6 of fuel oil, or Ethylene dibromide at the rate of 1 pint of 85 per cent concentrate to five gallons of fuel oil. Drench the bark thoroughly on all sides. 3. Salvage logging... Log out and mill infested trees before the beetles mature and emerge.

Much beetle damage can be prevented by good logging practices; for example, by removing windthrow trees promptly, cutting decadent, sickly trees, and following practices conducive to vigorous tree growth.

It is not advisable to leave cut green trees in woods during spring and summer, do not pile green wood or lumber against green trees, avoid mechanical damage to trees, lop and scatter logging slash, and dispose of limbs and trees broken by snow, so this material will dry out rapidly.

Woodland owners planning to burn during fire season should obtain a burning permit from their local fire patrol.

An expert in the moving van business estimates that 20 per cent of all Americans will be occupying different quarters on Dec. 31, 1959, than they were on Jan. 1.

Set Out Plants, County Agent Advises Growers

By DON BERRY
Jackson County Extension Agent

With the danger of frost over, home gardeners should try to get out their bedding plants as soon as possible. Now is a good time to put in peppers, tomatoes, egg plants, brussel sprouts, cabbage, etc.

Peppers and egg plants are easy to grow. Even if you have no garden they can be set out as a border along with flowers and used as ornamentals. They are quite decorative in small spaces and should be set about eighteen inches apart. California Wonder types are the best green peppers while Red Chile are still recommended for hot peppers. The Black Beauty egg plant is the best home garden variety.

Tomatoes should be gotten out as quickly as possible and may be grown either as individual plants on the wall or trellis. They can be planted in a home garden 3x3 feet and staked or pruned. Where staking, it is best to set stake with the plant. As stem grows, tie it to the stake at eight inch intervals and remove all side shoots as they appear.

Tomato Varieties Given
There are many tomato varieties. Burpees Big Early or Morses Early 498 are good early plants, while Ace and Big Boy are recommended as late varieties.

It should be remembered that most early blossoms break off at a swelling on the stem. This natural shedding occurs most years until the early morning temperatures stay above 50 degrees for several consecutive nights. Earlier setting can be encouraged through the use of hormones but fruit which is set by this method will often be seedless and misshapen.

With all bedding plants, a dip into a DDT solution before planting, using one heaping tablespoon of 50 per cent DDT in a gallon of water, aids in flea beetle control. Booster solutions using two heaping tablespoons of a complete fertilizer to a gallon of water, and a cupful applied to each transplant, is also beneficial.

Poultry Meeting Set For June 18 In Corvallis

Corvallis-Oregon poultrymen are scratching around for ways out of their own special depression.

Lowest egg prices in 18 years will be a focal point for the Oregon Poultry and Hatchery association meeting June 18 at Oregon State college. More and better chickens have glutted markets with eggs, putting skids under prices. At the same time, feed grain prices have remained relatively firm, whittling down net profits for the poultryman, college authorities point out.

Nationwide, laying hens are busy complicating the problem. In April, they laid 300 million more eggs than in April, 1958. Much of the increase is traced to 8 million more layers than in 1958. Much of the increase is traced to 8 million more layers than in 1958-the rest from better production per bird.

These and other trends in the poultry business will fill the June 18 agenda, reports association secretary Noel Bennion, OSC extension poultry specialist.

One possible remedy up for study is cooperation among national, state, and county associations to smooth out marketing programs for poultrymen. Vern F. Steckley, Kendallville, Ind., president of the American Poultry and Hatchery federation, will discuss the cooperative program.

Oregon's tax situation-particularly tax and agricultural bills passed by the recent legislature-will be reviewed by Senator Walter C. Leth, Polk county.

Rapid changes in the poultry with complex management and financing structures pose the question of whether poultry producers will become "factory workers" in the system. Speaker will be Don M. Turnbull, executive secretary of the national poultry federation.

Other speakers will include W. T. Cooney, OSC associate dean of agriculture and formerly of the college poultry department, who will discuss industry trends; L. D. Sanborn, University of California marketing technologist, who will speak on poultry management and egg quality-control. Special events include a mid-afternoon Centennial tea for the "Cacklebells" women's auxiliary, and an evening banquet.

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

A glimpse of the past often provides a look at the future. This is a saying which seems appropriate in Oregon during the Centennial year.

This might be particularly true in Jackson county as farmers watch orchard land being gobbled up by real estate and recreational developments, watch the development of one irrigation project and await the possible development of another - the Rogue River basin.

Fruit production - pears mainly - now seems to be our No. 2 industry. However, some observers are saying already that fruit production will dwindle in acreage covered and in impact on local economy. Only time will judge whether they are right. We do know, however, of Southern California areas where orange groves have been replaced by real estate - and that within the last 15 years.

But, as to the past - various articles published recently on Jackson county's early history tell how once prominent grain land has been gradually replaced with commercial fruit orchards from the 1890's on. It was in 1890 that the first carload of fruit was shipped from the county by J. H. Stewart, first pioneer orchardist of record. Phoenix, Talent and Wagner Creek, now containing large orchards were all planted to wheat or other grain in the early days.

Mrs. M. D. Colver, 145 South Ivy st., Medford, remembers the early days of farming in Rogue River valley and in the Phoenix, Talent and Wagner Creek area, particularly. She talks of her house - the farm house where she was raised - as having "a large hickory nut tree in front." Probably switches cut from the same variety of tree enforced father's word in those days. This house is still standing a mile south of Talent on the Wagner Creek rd. However, the large full-length porch has been removed.

Mrs. Colver said the Stewart house remains west of Phoenix where the first commercial orchard was started. She remembers the prune orchard there, too. A prune dryer was used to dry fruit, she remembers, but can't describe it exactly.

Most of the Rogue River valley in those days raised wheat and what fruit was raised was from family orchards of apples, pears, cherries, plums and prunes.

She remembers a time of few insects to trouble orchard owners and few if any freezes. The farmers who raised the early commercial fruit made good money for awhile, Mrs. Colver said. In fact raising such fruit seemed so easy to the uninformed that real estate firms advertised in the early 1900's that the fruit fairly dropped off the trees into the farmer's hands.

What is now called the Hillcrest and 401 orchards was all grain land in those days. Early commercial orchardists sprayed with only lime and sulphur. The Gores had an orchard and packing house where the Starlight theater is now. Few houses stood between Medford and Phoenix in those early days. Old time valley residents speak of taking rides to Medford past beautiful farm fields and lanes of trees.

Mrs. Colver remembers the four-horse bell teams which used to haul the big wagons over from Klamath Falls or Linkville as it was known then. (It was named after the Linkville river.) The teams would come over to get the fruit in the fall. A little girl in pig-tails and gingham dress could hear the bells jingling far down the road.

"The big wagons were like covered-wagons. The horses had bells across their collars," Mrs. Colver remembers. "The drivers would camp out in the field near the house. I could see the flare of their campfires and hear the men talking."

Talent developed as a farm trading center. Farmers would stop to buy staples or sell their produce. So the large wheat acreages went out and fruit came in. Now Medford first district is known as the winter pear capital of the world.

Pioneering is not limited to the early development of the Rogue River valley, however. Many of your farmer neighbors are pioneering with farm forestry. These are the farmers raising Douglas fir or various varieties of pine in their wood lots under either the agriculture conservation or soil bank programs.

Such people include William Hust of Wagner Creek; Rodney Keating, of the Valley View district; Hunter and Best over on the Applegate; and Ralph James in Sams Valley, and Jay Eatherton, Dark Hollow rd. Providing information and guidance is the service forester of the state forest patrol.

These farmers are mainly raising their trees for the Christmas tree market. They rightly figure that these trees when they mature in about eight years will be like money in the bank.

Like Hunter and Best, these men are learning as they go along. The tree farm on the Applegate of approximately 150,000 trees on 75 acres is an example of what can be done with plenty of hard work and study. Glenn Hunter visited the Christmas tree capital of the world at Shelton, Wash., to see how things were done. He was there in the late fall to watch the assembly-line means of processing and grading. He studied their tree culture methods, asked questions, came back and asked more questions of forestry experts.

They don't know, but they are learning. One of the first things they learned is that they could have saved money by planting around stumps and in brushy areas without completely clearing the ground the same as you would for a grain crop. However, forestry experts caution, where the ground is cleared clean cultivation pays. On steep slopes weeds can be used to control erosion if they aren't allowed to choke the young trees or steal the moisture away from them.

Glenn Best figures on sprinkler irrigation three times during the dry period. Equivalent of two inches of rain is provided in the four hours the sprinklers are going. He

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learned at Shelton, Wash., that the young trees don't need pruning for three years which allows for an uninterrupted growth, to firmly establish the trees. These are just a few of the things the two men have learned. Unlike many of the others, Hunter and Best are concentrating on one crop-trees.

Like any other type of farming the crop raised depends on the care it receives. One tree farmer observed has let the weeds grow in his young tree area to prevent erosion on the steep slope. Weeds are crowding the trees in many cases, however. Another farmer has cultivated too close to his young trees and chopped some of them off.

Keating, an orchardist, is using good fruit orchard practices to carefully tend his 3 1/4 acres of 8,300 future Christmas trees. The Douglas fir have been adequately spaced in straight rows and proper drainage has been provided. With continued care these trees will bring premium prices on the San Francisco and Southern California markets to which most Christmas trees from the valley are sent.

Good progress seems to have been made during a series of recent meetings at Salem to further organize the Oregon-Washington milk producers sales agency. Basic machinery for this new organization for Southwestern Washington, Oregon and Northern California dairymen should be established in two weeks, it has been reported.

During a Salem meeting last week approximately a third of the different milk pooling groups were signed up. Preliminary organizational work is performed this way - a representative of each milk pooling organization calls his board gets its feeling, the board checks the feeling of its members and the membership holds a vote. The representative attends the Salem meetings with the vote results in his pocket.

You may have read in the Portland papers where Mayor Terry Schunk is proposing that sale of raw milk within the city limits be forbidden. His arguments are that less than 1 per cent of the milk sold in the city is unpasteurized, but that small amount "causes a lot of problems."

His idea is to eliminate the expense of testing the raw milk to protect consumers against such diseases as typhoid, scarlet fever and diphtheria.

Dr. Thomas Meador, city health officer, said milk was the cause of 22 deaths in 1922 from septic sore throat and five deaths in 1924 from typhoid fever, before milk was brought under city controls.

Why not eliminate the sale of raw milk in Medford? Such a proposal was made when the city remodeled its milk ordinance, May 17, 1955. However, it was kicked out through pressure of the food fanatics. Some observers here doubt the effectiveness of such regulation since almost all of the raw milk consumed by Medford citizens is obtained on a cash and carry basis.

We are not taking a swipe at small dairy operations who take the same precautions as the Grade A dairies. They sell a good, wholesome, sanitary product. But we are warning against purchasing raw milk from the people who are barely meeting sanitation requirements as checked by the inspectors.

Local health authorities are required to make inspections of dairy operations every six months. In three to four months cows can give off undulant fever organisms, local health officials explained. Pasteurization on the other hand, kills all harmful bacteria. This is the process of heating milk to as high as 143 degrees, then cooling it rapidly.

This is June Dairy Month. Milk is a good healthy drink for everybody. Order milk instead of coffee, for a change.

Insecticide Tip Given by Agent

Home owners who are having trouble with worms in radishes, turnips, potatoes, carrots, etc., might try a soil insecticide, recommended Don Berry, county agent.

Where vegetables have already been planted, drenching rows using two to three teaspoons of Aldrin or Heptachlor emulsifiable concentrate (liquid) per gallon of water is generally beneficial. Recommended rate is one pint of this solution for each 25 feet of row.

It can be dripped along the rows from a tin can with a large nail hole punched in the bottom. Three applications timed 10 days apart, starting when the first true leaves are showing should be made.

If the garden was treated prior to planting with a dust or granule form of Aldrin, Heptachlor, Chlordane or Dieldrin, the drenching treatment may not be necessary.

Soil treatment is easy and effective. Generally five pounds of five per cent dust or granules, or 10 pounds of 2 1/2 per cent granules per thousand feet mixed into the soil before planting is the recommended practice.

Onion root maggots are extremely difficult to control and here the best practice

Carcasses Need Producer's Tag

Salem-Oregon farmers are reminded that any meat food carcasses or parts of carcasses transported on the highways must be accompanied by a bona fide producer's tag.

The state department of agriculture points out these tags are available from any of its livestock brand inspectors or officers throughout the state and also from county sheriffs.

State meat inspectors are running into untaxed carcasses at business places and at locker plants.

The department says that both producer and possessor are liable for violation on their respective ends if tags are missing. The farmer is required to tag them for transporting; the possessor thereafter is required to keep the tag attached until the meat is cut up, and after that must retain the tag for one year. The tagging is a phase of the state program to prevent livestock theft.

is to dust onions at 10-day intervals with DDT as soon as the onions emerge through the surface of the soil. This dusting must be continued throughout the season.

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