

Cone and Seed Pest Management – Interior Operations 2007/08

Robb Bennett

This project covers operational expenses for the Interior seed pest management biologist's activities, including all expenses associated with lab, field, and office work. Included in this project are wages for auxiliary technical support (as needed) to assist with operational pest management trials, data analysis, and development of new operational techniques. The 2007/08 fiscal year was the first full year of Jim Corrigan's tenure as the Interior seed pest management biologist.

Between April 1, 2007 and 31 March 2008 the Interior seed pest management biologist provided the following services:

1. Performed 42 site visits, pest surveys and identification, and damage predictions and assessments.
2. Delivered 46 written pest status reports, position papers and/or backgrounders for colleagues and superiors inside the Ministry of Forests and Range and for partners outside the BC Forest Service.
3. Prepared ~20 other extension recommendations, pest identifications, responses to requests for information, and other transfers of technology.
4. Dealt with ~20 requests for information from members of the public.

Work continued on in-house and collaborative development of protocols for seed bugs, seed wasps, coneworms, mountain pine beetle, and other insects of importance to interior cone and seed production. In summary, the Interior pest management biologist

1. Initiated or collaborated with university, government, and other research personnel on various pest management projects in the field, including pesticide injection trials, field guide preparations, sawfly pests of Douglas-fir pollen, winter moth monitoring, adelgid biocontrol, Chylisa pitch fly monitoring in lodgepole pine, and timing of spring emergence of cone midges and seed wasps.
2. Organized the 2007 mountain pine beetle risk assessment and management for Interior seed orchards.
3. Organized installation of "HOBO" temperature and day-degree recording hardware and software at all Interior orchard sites.

As well as training provided for orchard technicians, the Interior pest management biologist provided the following training & educational experiences:

1. Delivered six professional presentations for colleagues.
2. Actively participated in 17 meetings with professional colleagues in the BC Forest Service, FGC (and its subcommittees), Entomological Society of British Columbia, and other groups.
3. Made numerous "tail-gate" type extension presentations to operational personnel.

The following publication resulted from this project:

1. Corrigan, J., Cox, K., Graham, H., Murphy, J., Nicholson, G., Pieper, G., Turner, K., Wagner, T. 2007. Confronting the Mountain Pine Beetle in the Interior Seed Orchards in 2007. TicTalk 8(1): 19-23. <http://www.fgcouncil.bc.ca/>

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