

MANNING AND THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NORTHERN LIGHTS

Steve Blanton, of Manning Diversified Forest Products, recently reported to both the Town of Manning and the Municipal District of Northern Lights that due to a July fly-in from British Columbia, that trees within the town and county have been infected with Mountain Pine Beetle.

The Town and MD ask that residents look for the following signs and symptoms of infection of trees within the town (in yards), shelterbelts and windrows:

- Popcorn shaped masses of resin or sap, called pitch tubes, on the trunk where beetle tunnelling begins. Pitch tubes may be white or brown in colour.
- Boring dust (sawdust) in bark crevices or on the ground immediately surrounding the tree base.
- Evidence of woodpecker feeding on the trunk. Patches of bark removed and bark flakes on the ground below tree.
- Foliage or needles that are reddish or yellowish (although this usually occurs 8-10 months after infection).
- Presence of live beetles (eggs, larvae, pupae) as well as galleries or tunnels under bark.



The only way to stop the spread of the Mountain Pine Beetle is to cut down infected trees and burn them. Each pair that mates can lay up to 75 eggs and the larvae can survive the winter under the bark. The beetle is about the size off a grain of rice. A fungus in the mouth of the beetle turns the wood blue. It is clearly visible when viewing a cross-section of the tree trunk. This blue fungus devalues the tree making it unsuitable for current markets. Leaving the infected trees just enables the current infestation to spread later, in the next year.