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DEFOLIATION OF EVERGREEN TREES.

Leaf eating by caterpillars, similar insect larvae, and adult beetles is the most evident, frequently observed and often complained of form of insect attack on shade and ornamental trees. Such insect work as it approaches the stripping of leaves from the whole tree or shrub, or a part, is frequently a serious injury to evergreens. The defoliated part or the whole tree may die, or under more favorable circumstances may only be stunted, but the vitality of evergreens stripped of their leaves is considerably impaired, even when they do not die, and they become attractive and easy prey for a number of other insect enemies.

Evergreens attacked by leaf-eating insects should be sprayed with a lead arsenate solution as soon as the insects are observed, and it is important in view of the menace of defoliation to evergreens that they be systematically examined at intervals in order to check any insect feeding work when it is beginning.

Some accessory methods, such as the collection and destruction of cocoons and egg masses, the burning of infested leaves or needles, and the cutting and burning of infested shoots, are available for use against certain species.

Advice concerning the use of these methods can of course only be given when the insect attacking the tree is positively known as the result of an examination of specimens submitted, or, in rare instances, when descriptions given are sufficiently accurate for recognition. Any of the accessory methods suggested above when underlined are considered advisable in combating the species involved.

WILLIAM MIDDLETON,
Specialist in Shade-Tree Insects.

Approved:

F. C. Craighead,

Entomologist in charge of Forest Insect Investigations.

