



Summer Village of Grandview

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Mountain Pine Beetle Infestation in Grandview

Unfortunately, the mountain pine beetle (MPB) has continued its insidious journey across Alberta and has recently arrived at Pigeon Lake. As well as other locations around the lake, it has shown up in the Summer Village of Grandview in a mature stand of pine trees on a Summer Village lot near the entrance to Grandview Meadows. The infected tree has been cut down and infected parts are being disposed of in accordance with recommended practices.

“The MPB kills pine trees by clogging and destroying the conductive tissue of the tree by introducing a blue-stain fungi when attacking the tree. Its larvae feed in the phloem of the tree. The action of blue-stain fungi and larval feeding can kill the tree within one month of the attack.” (ref: Alberta.ca)

Infected trees can readily be identified by the presence of “pitch tubes” on the bark of the tree (see Figure 1). These are formed when the sap leaks from the tree through the insect’s bore holes. Infected trees should be removed in a proper manner with consideration for destroying the pest. The MPB becomes active during July and August and removal actions should be taken prior to this time. Provincial regulations govern the transport of infected wood. Wood with bark should not be transported to other areas and infected wood must be safely burned prior to June.

If you have any pine trees on your property, inspect the bark for the pitch tubes which are readily identifiable, indicating the presence of MPBs. Infested trees should be marked with ribbon and removed for burning.

Pine trees can be protected through the use of a disruptive chemical called a pheromone, which disrupts the behavior of the MPB.

“Verbenone is an anti-aggregation pheromone used to prevent attacks on healthy pine trees. Verbenone is a naturally occurring chemical that mimics a heavily infested tree. As a consequence, beetles may avoid attacking trees treated with this chemical. Verbenone is specific to MPB and is not a pesticide.” (ref: Alberta.ca)

The Summer Village is looking at arranging the purchase by residents of pheromone packs for pine trees on their property. Further details, including cost, will be provided by early spring.

The Summer Village is reviewing best practices for the removal and disposal on infected trees and for recommended practices for municipal control. All residents are requested to take note of the pine trees on their lots and inspect each one for the presence of MPBs. If you think you have a tree that is infected, please help us determine the extent of this problem by advising the Village Office with an email (information@svofficepl.com with subject heading MPB Grandview). Please indicate if you would like assistance in undertaking this task.

Further information will be provided in early spring.



Figure 1: Mountain Pine Beetle pitch tubes on infected tree



Figure 2: Blue staining caused by fungi introduced by Mountain Pine Beetle