Forest Health Conditions in Ontario 2025

Ministry of Natural Resources

Ontario

Forest Health Conditions in Ontario 2025

Compiled by Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Science and Research Branch.

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For more information about forest health monitoring in Ontario visit ontario.ca/page/forest-health-conditions.

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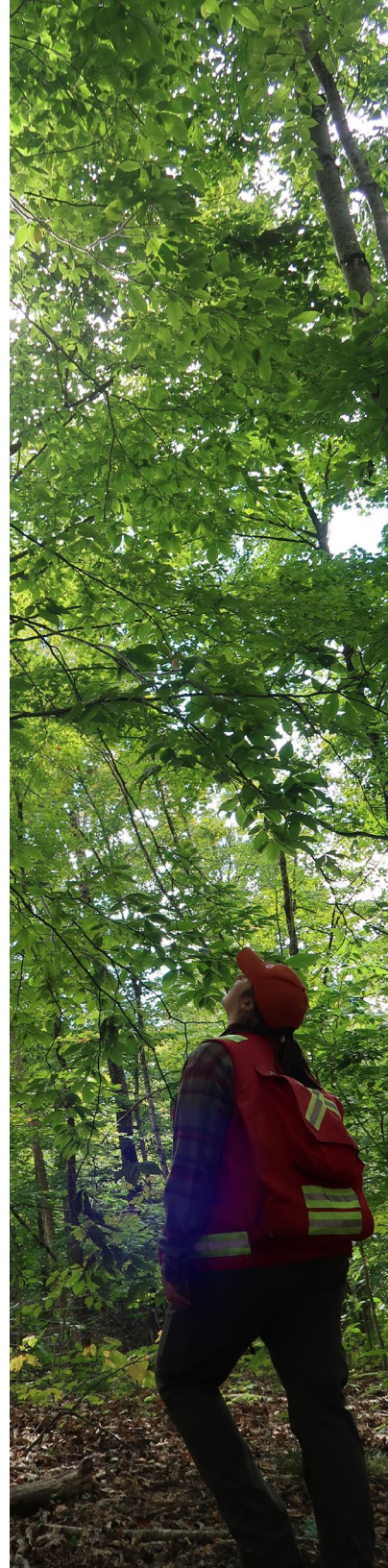

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Sommaire : Bilan de santé des forêts 2025

En 2025, les températures ont été près de la moyenne sur 30 ans, à quelques variations près.

Le printemps et l'été ont été plus secs qu'à l'habitude dans les régions du Nord-Ouest et du Sud, ainsi que dans l'Extrême-Nord de l'Ontario.

Des températures plus chaudes que la moyenne ont été enregistrées à l'été et à l'automne, avant de glisser sous la moyenne en décembre. Parmi les événements météorologiques dignes de mention, mentionnons :

- une tempête verglas à la fin du mois de mars dans l'Est et le Sud de l'Ontario;
- des épisodes d'orages et de vents violents;
- des tornades dans les régions du Nord-Est et du Sud;
- de violentes rafales dans le parc provincial Samuel de Champlain, qui ont forcé la fermeture du parc pour le reste de la saison.

La superficie d'arbres abattus par le vent a augmenté par rapport à 2024 et s'établit à plus de 6 086 hectares.

Principaux ravageurs et principales zones où des feuilles d'arbres ou des aiguilles ont été mangées :

- la défoliation par la tordeuse de bourgeons de l'épinette, qui se produit surtout dans la région du Nord-Est, a baissé pour la troisième année consécutive;
- la défoliation par la tordeuses de bourgeons du pin gris, qui se produit surtout dans la région du Nord-Ouest, a baissé pour la cinquième année consécutive;
- la population de livrées des forêts a diminué dans le nord pour la deuxième année consécutive.

La zone de quarantaine pour l'agrile du frêne a été élargie afin d'inclure le district de Timiskaming.

La zone réglementée par le gouvernement fédéral pour le puceron lanigère de la pruche a été élargie afin d'inclure :

- la municipalité régionale de Niagara et le comté des Haldimand;
- la ville de Hamilton;
- le canton de Alnwick et Haldimand.

L'insecte a aussi été détecté dans de nouveaux emplacements situés à l'extérieur des zones réglementées dans la région du Grand Toronto et le comté de Norfolk.

Aucune défoliation par la spongieuse n’a été cartographiée.

Aucun nouveau cas de flétrissement du chêne n’a été détecté.

Nous avons continué de documenter la présence de la maladie corticale du hêtre dans les régions du Nord-Est et du Sud.

Des cas de maladie de la feuille du hêtre ont été signalés dans de nouvelles municipalités de districts où la maladie avait déjà été déclarée.

Les techniciens ont consigné les observations au moyen de l’outil Field Maps de l’ESRI. Cet outil a permis de collecter et de partager des données en temps réel afin de prendre des décisions sur la tenue d’activités de relevé supplémentaires. Il offre une meilleure expérience utilisateur aux techniciens qui collectent des données en offrant une interface plus axée sur les cartes que QuickCapture, utilisé en 2024.

Introduction

Forest health monitoring in Ontario is conducted by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR).

The annual forest health monitoring program has five components:

- Aerial mapping of major forest disturbances to quantify the extent and severity (e.g., insect outbreaks, weather events, decline, and disease damage)
- Biomonitoring through the collection of insect and disease samples to track occurrence, changes in range or host species attacked, or changes in abundance
- Surveying for pests of interest, particularly invasive species or pests affecting high value trees such as plantations or seed orchards
- Conducting or supporting research in forest entomology, pathology, or weather effects
- Establishing and surveying temporary and permanent sample plots to monitor health of select forest ecosystems

Forest health monitoring in Ontario includes documenting the occurrence of biotic (e.g., insects, disease) and abiotic (e.g., snow and drought damage) disturbances and events. All forested area in the province, regardless of ownership, is monitored and reported on each year.

In 2025, insect diagnostics were executed through a partnership among MNR, the Canadian Forest Service (CFS), and the Invasive Species Centre (ISC). Samples collected by forest health monitoring program staff were identified by ISC staff. The CFS provided laboratory space and access to its historical insect reference collection. Disease samples were identified at the MNR's Ontario Forest Research Institute (OFRI). Results of the insect and disease collections were entered into a national database managed by CFS.

Maps, tables, and graphs were produced from aerial surveys of major forest disturbances. See Appendix 1 for a map illustrating the district boundaries referred to in the tables and regional summaries. Results from the annual monitoring program were reported provincially at the Forest Health Review in Barrie and as part of the MNR's Science Insights seminar series, and nationally at the Forest Pest Management Forum in Ottawa and are described in more detail in this report.

Weather patterns

Weather affects the growth, phenology (timing of life cycle stages and host development), dispersal, and survival of forest insects. Forest pathogens, especially leaf diseases and needle cast fungi, can be common during wet or humid periods. Also, extreme weather events such as drought, snowfall, flooding, tornadoes, microbursts, frost, freezing, scorch, and rapid temperature fluctuations can affect tree health, causing foliage or twig death, or tree decline and mortality.

Following the trend from December, January saw below average amounts of precipitation and snowfall. Mean temperature was also close to normal across the province. In February, temperature was slightly cooler than average in southern Ontario and part of northwest Ontario. The rest of the province continued the trend of being close to normal temperatures. In the last week of February, warmer than normal temperatures were reported across the province with highs reaching 12.5 degrees Celsius on February 25. Precipitation varied from more than average in the northwest to less than average in the northeast. In addition, snowfall was greater than normal in southern Ontario due to several winter storms throughout the month with a record 78 cm at Toronto Pearson Airport. In March, a temperature gradient was evident across the province with lower-than-normal temperatures in the north, moving to above normal temperatures in the south with a band of average temperatures in between. Later in the month, temperatures reached as high as 22 degrees Celsius in St. Catharines. In most of the province, precipitation was above normal with several major events contributing throughout the month, but snowfall was below normal with the warmer temperatures in the south. At the end of March, a significant ice storm affected southern and eastern Ontario with ice accretion amounts up to 25 mm in Lindsay.

In April, temperatures were cooler than normal across northern Ontario and around normal in the rest of the province. Average precipitation fluctuated across the province, with the Far North being drier than average, northeast and north of Lake Superior being wetter, and the rest of the province being closer to average. Late in April, widespread thunderstorms affected southern Ontario that included strong wind gusts, heavy rain, and lightning. Gusts reached as high as 103 km/h as recorded at Toronto Pearson. In May, temperatures were normal for most of the province, except for the northwest which was warmer and the deep southwest which was cooler. Temperature trended up from the start of the month to temperature highs mid month, with records like 32.0 degrees Celsius in Ear Falls on May 13. The next week, temperatures dropped with some evening temperatures below zero, such as -4.0 degrees Celsius in Tillsonburg. Precipitation was less than normal in the north, especially in the northwest. Kenora only received 8 mm of rain, which is 9% of the total normal precipitation. On May 16, thunderstorms with strong winds were reported around Chatham Kent and the first tornado of 2026 was an Enhanced Fujita (EF) 0 near Woodstock. In June, mean temperatures were close to normal for most of the province, but slightly higher across southern Ontario. Drier than normal conditions continued in the northwest and Far North of Ontario and was also observed in southern Ontario with areas seeing less than half of normal totals. However, northeast Ontario was wetter than normal with some areas seeing twice their normal amounts. On June 27, Timmins recorded 60 mm which is nearly 75% of the monthly normal. On June 21, a thunderstorm traveled

from east of Lake Nipissing to Kingston and Ottawa with heavy rain and strong winds that resulted in flooding and downed trees among other damage. In Kiosk, 87 mm of rain were recorded in 2 hours. A significant downburst affected Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park, and it closed for the remainder of the year.

In July, temperatures were above normal for southern Ontario and near normal for the rest of the province. For precipitation, most of the province was drier than normal, with the dry conditions continuing for a five-month trend in the northwest. Along the north shore of Lake Superior, wetter than average conditions were reported, with Wawa receiving 215% of normal precipitation. Several storms throughout the month brought heavy rains with flooding reported east of Georgian Bay from Parry Sound to Sundridge, between Montreal River and Wawa, and around Espanola. On July 24, thunderstorms moved across central to eastern southern Ontario bringing downbursts and hail. In August, mean temperatures were normal across the province but were above normal during the first half of the month and went down to below normal in the second half. For most of the province, August was drier than normal, except around Sault Ste. Marie which received 190% of its normal precipitation. Some rain was received in the northwest, but these areas were still designated as severe or extreme drought due to the continued months without consistent precipitation. In September, it was warmer than normal for most of the province, especially in the northwest. The month started warmer than normal, then temperatures dipped, and then rebounded to warmer than normal for the rest of the month. Again, the entire province was drier than normal, with the highest deficits at the northwest and northeast provincial borders.

In October, temperatures were higher than normal for the province. The first week of the month was the warmest with temperatures reaching 29.7 degrees Celsius in Kapuskasing on October 5. Precipitation was a mix of near or drier than normal except for near the Manitoba border in the northwest that was wetter than normal. Kenora had 231% of its normal precipitation total. In November, the average monthly temperatures were above normal in the northwest and the Far North of Ontario. Precipitation was near normal for most of the province, but drier conditions returned in the northwest and parts of the northeast were wetter than normal. Drier than normal conditions occurred along the northern shores of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. The first snow of the season arrived in the province on November 9 and affected most of southern Ontario. A few days later, lake effect snow squalls formed and affected areas in the southwest. Lastly, heavy snow and snowsqualls affected northeast and southern Ontario from November 26–28. In December, the entire province experienced cooler than normal temperatures. For precipitation, much of northern and southwest Ontario had higher than normal precipitation amounts, with the rest of the province close to normal. Much of the province had higher than average monthly snow totals due to several snow events in the second half of the month. Two major storms near the end of the month produced freezing rain and snow in southern Ontario and the second also brought heavy snowfalls to much of northern Ontario.

Weather data was summarized from Ontario’s Monthly Weather Review produced by the Government of Canada.

Extreme weather and abiotic events

In 2025, 643 forest fires were recorded in Ontario, an increase from 480 in 2024 as reported by MNR's Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services. An increase in area burned was also observed with 597,654 ha burned in 2025 compared to 86,657 ha in 2024. Several large forest fires were shared over the border with Manitoba, who had a significant fire year with 2,169,092 ha burned in 2025.

In 2025, 6086 ha of blowdown were recorded, an increase from 1643 ha in 2024. Most of the recorded blowdown was between Northeast and Southern regions. The Northern Tornados Project documented 44 tornados and 32 downbursts, which included the EF-2 that caused extensive damage to Samuel Champlain Provincial Park on June 21. Additional ground and drone photos can be found on the online Northern Tornados Project interactive dashboard.

At the end of March, an ice storm affected central to eastern southern Ontario with as high as 25 mm of ice accretion reported. For many in these areas, this event caused hazardous conditions, power outages, and damaged trees. Surveys to estimate tree damage and determine if aerial surveys were warranted were completed in April by the Forest Health Monitoring team using ESRI Field Maps. This review allowed for the severity and type of damage to be recorded, including if fine or major branch damage occurred, or whole tree snap. In addition, the differences in how tree species were affected was recorded – for example, red pine plantations were consistently recorded with higher levels of damage with snapped and broken stems. Continuing to monitor the impacts of this damage will be a priority in the coming years.

Insect disturbance summary

For the third consecutive year, spruce budworm defoliation decreased in the province. The area of moderate to severe defoliation declined from 1,542,016 ha in 2024 to 695,739 ha in 2025. Most (497,526 ha) of this defoliation was in Northeast Region, with most (173,736 ha) in Chapleau Wawa District with Timmins Kirkland Lake District close behind (105,294 ha). In Northwest Region, 47,837 ha of moderate to severe defoliation were mapped, with most of it in Nipigon Geraldton District (28,587 ha). In Southern Region, 15,373 ha of moderate to severe defoliation were mapped, with most of it in Pembroke District (104,161 ha). Some light spruce budworm defoliation (154 ha) was also mapped in Peterborough Bancroft District in Southern Region. Spruce budworm mortality (80,097 ha) was also mapped in all six Northeast Region districts and two districts in both Northwest and Southern regions.

In the fall, spruce budworm egg mass surveys were undertaken in Northwest Region to forecast spring population levels based on the number of egg masses on needles. In total, 27 locations were sampled with a light defoliation forecast for 13, moderate defoliation for five, severe defoliation for eight, and nil defoliation for one location. No spruce budworm L2 surveys were completed in 2025.

For the fifth consecutive year, moderate to severe defoliation by jack pine budworm decreased in the province, dropping from 26,136 ha in 2024 to 1082 ha in 2025. Most of the moderate to severe jack pine budworm defoliation were recorded in Northwest Region, primarily in Red Lake Sioux Lookout District (1030 ha). Light jack pine budworm defoliation (217 ha) was also mapped in only Red Lake Sioux Lookout District in Northwest Region. Jack pine tree mortality (8670 ha), caused by consecutive years of moderate to severe defoliation, was mapped in Northwest Region in Kenora and Red Lake Sioux Lookout districts. No jack pine budworm L2 surveys were completed in 2025.

For the second year in a row, moderate to severe forest tent caterpillar defoliation decreased from 332,894 ha in 2024 to 131,730 ha in 2025. Most of this defoliation was in Northeast Region (62,605 ha). Much of the decrease was in Northeast Region with nearly a fifth of the total defoliation being mapped from 304,377 ha in 2024 to 62,304 ha. This substantial decrease in defoliation can be attributed to a variety of factors including native pathogens and parasitoids, including the friendly fly.

Several other insects caused localized defoliation or damage in various parts of Ontario. These occurrences did not develop into provincially mappable areas of defoliation but do contribute to overall effects on forest health. Further information is provided in the individual pest write ups.

Forest pathogen summary

Most tree pathogens do not cause symptoms over areas large enough to be mapped, except when the damage is notable. In 2025, both moderate to severe brown spot needle blight defoliation (544 ha) and light brown spot needle blight defoliation (3 ha) were mapped in Aurora Midhurst Owen Sound District. No other disease was mappable.

Invasive species summary

Emerald ash borer is an invasive insect currently regulated by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The quarantine area in Ontario was expanded in March 2025 to include the District of Timiskaming, which extends the contiguous zone in Ontario just south of Timmins. This regulation change maintained the previously established boundaries including all of Southern Region and south of Montreal River at the northern end of Sault Ste. Marie Blind River District. The City of Thunder Bay in Northwest Region is also regulated under the CFIA. In 2025, 1938 ha of ash decline caused by emerald ash borer were aerially mapped in Northeast and Southern regions, all in the quarantined area. This year, a dedicated emerald ash borer flight was conducted in August to capture the northern edge of mortality in Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie Blind River districts.

Initial infestations of hemlock woolly adelgid were in Etobicoke in 2012 and Niagara Gorge in 2013. However, since 2019 detections by the CFIA during surveys in Niagara Gorge and near Wainfleet, new positive locations have

been added to the list almost annually. In 2025, the regulated area for hemlock woolly adelgid was expanded to include Regional Municipality of Niagara, Haldimand County, the City of Hamilton, and the Township of Alnwick/ Haldimand. In addition, new locations with hemlock woolly adelgid, outside the regulated areas, were confirmed by the CFIA in the Greater Toronto Area and Norfolk County, and in the regulated area in St. Catharines.

After being mapped for three consecutive years in Thunder Bay Ignace District, moderate to severe satin moth defoliation decreased from 8247 ha in 2024 to 2,399 ha in 2025.

The CFIA confirmed elm zigzag sawfly presence in Quebec in 2020, the first confirmed record of the pest in North America. In 2025, locations of elm zigzag sawfly defoliation were reported in all Southern Region districts.

In 2025, no spongy moth defoliation was mapped, but minor occurrences were observed in Northeast and Southern regions.

Since its first report in Ontario in 2017, beech leaf disease has been confirmed in Aylmer Guelph, Aurora Midhurst Owen Sound, and Peterborough Bancroft districts. In 2025, beech leaf disease was reported in additional municipalities within MNR districts where beech leaf disease had been previously reported.

In June 2023, the CFIA confirmed the first detections of oak wilt in Canada in the City of Niagara Falls, Springwater Twp, and the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake in southern Ontario. No new occurrences of oak wilt were confirmed in 2025.

Occurrences of beech bark disease were observed in Northeast and Southern regions in Sault Ste. Marie Blind River, North Bay, Aylmer Guelph, Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge, and Peterborough Bancroft districts.

Forest health field maps summary

In 2024, in addition to collections and surveys conducted by the Forest Health Program, the ESRI QuickCapture application was used to record forest health observations by technicians. In 2025, the Forest Health Program switched to using ESRI Field Maps to record these observations. The Field Maps application was initially used to record damage after the late March ice storm in central Ontario. This tool allowed for real time data collection and sharing to make decisions about further surveying efforts. This application provided a better user experience for technicians collecting data and allowed for a more map focused interface compared to the previously used QuickCapture.

This tool was adopted to make note of occurrences on the landscape while completing general surveys and in preparation for aerial surveys. Over 1300 individual records were collected with over 150 unique identifications, including insects, diseases, and abiotic factors. Spruce budworm was the most common with 242 records.

Pest index — Major forest disturbances

Major forest disturbances occur when an insect, disease, or weather event affects a very large area, is not specific to a region, or has affected more than one region in the past. These disturbances, listed below, are considered of provincial significance.

Pest index — Minor forest disturbances

Minor forest disturbances are identified regionally using forest health surveys. These disturbances, listed below, could have local or regional significance to forest health conditions.

Pest index — Invasive forest species

Invasive forest species are insects or diseases that are not native to Ontario. Invasive species have the potential or proven ability to have deleterious effects on forest health, tree health, ecosystem functioning, or social and economic values. Invasive species reported during forest health monitoring field work in Ontario in 2025 are listed below.

Host index

Tree and shrub species mentioned in this report and their scientific names.

Common name	Scientific name
American beech	*Fagus grandifolia* Ehrh.
American chestnut	*Castanea dentata* (Marsh.) Borkh.
American elm/white elm	*Ulmus americana* L.
Austrian pine	*Pinus nigra* J. F. Arnold
Balsam fir	*Abies balsamea* (L.) Mill.
Balsam poplar	*Populus balsamifera* L.
Basswood	*Tilia americana* L.
Black ash	*Fraxinus nigra* Marsh.
Black cherry	*Prunus serotina* Ehrh.
Black locust	*Robinia pseudo-acacia* L.
Black spruce	*Picea mariana* (Mill.) BSP
Black walnut	*Juglans nigra* L.
Bur oak	*Quercus macrocarpa* Michx.
Choke cherry	*Prunus virginiana* L.
Eastern cottonwood	*Populus deltoides* Bartr. ex Marshall
Eastern hemlock	*Tsuga canadensis* (L.) Carrière
Eastern white cedar	*Thuja occidentalis* L.
Eastern white pine	*Pinus strobus* L.
European black alder	*Alnus glutinosa* (L.) Gaertn.
European larch	*Larix decidua* Mill.
European white poplar	*Populus alba* L.
Green ash	*Fraxinus pennsylvanica* Marshall
Honey locust	*Gleditsia triacanthos* L.

Common name	Scientific name
Jack pine	*Pinus banksiana* Lamb.
Largetooth aspen	*Populus grandidentata* Michx.
Manitoba maple	*Acer negundo* L.
Norway maple	*Acer platanoides* L.
Pin cherry	*Prunus pensylvanica* L. f.
Red maple	*Acer rubrum* L.
Red oak	*Quercus rubra* L.
Red pine	*Pinus resinosa* Ait.
Red spruce	*Picea rubens* Sarg.
Scots pine	*Pinus sylvestris* L.
Silver maple	*Acer saccharinum* L.
Speckled alder	*Alnus incana spp. rugosa* (Du Roi) J. Clausen
Sugar maple	*Acer saccharum* Marsh.
Tamarack/larch	*Larix laricina* (Du Roi) K. Koch
Trembling aspen	*Populus tremuloides* Michx.
White ash	*Fraxinus americana* L.
White birch	*Betula papyrifera* Marsh.
White oak	*Quercus alba* L.
White spruce	*Picea glauca* (Moench) Voss
Willow species	*Salix spp.*

Major forest disturbances

Mapped area

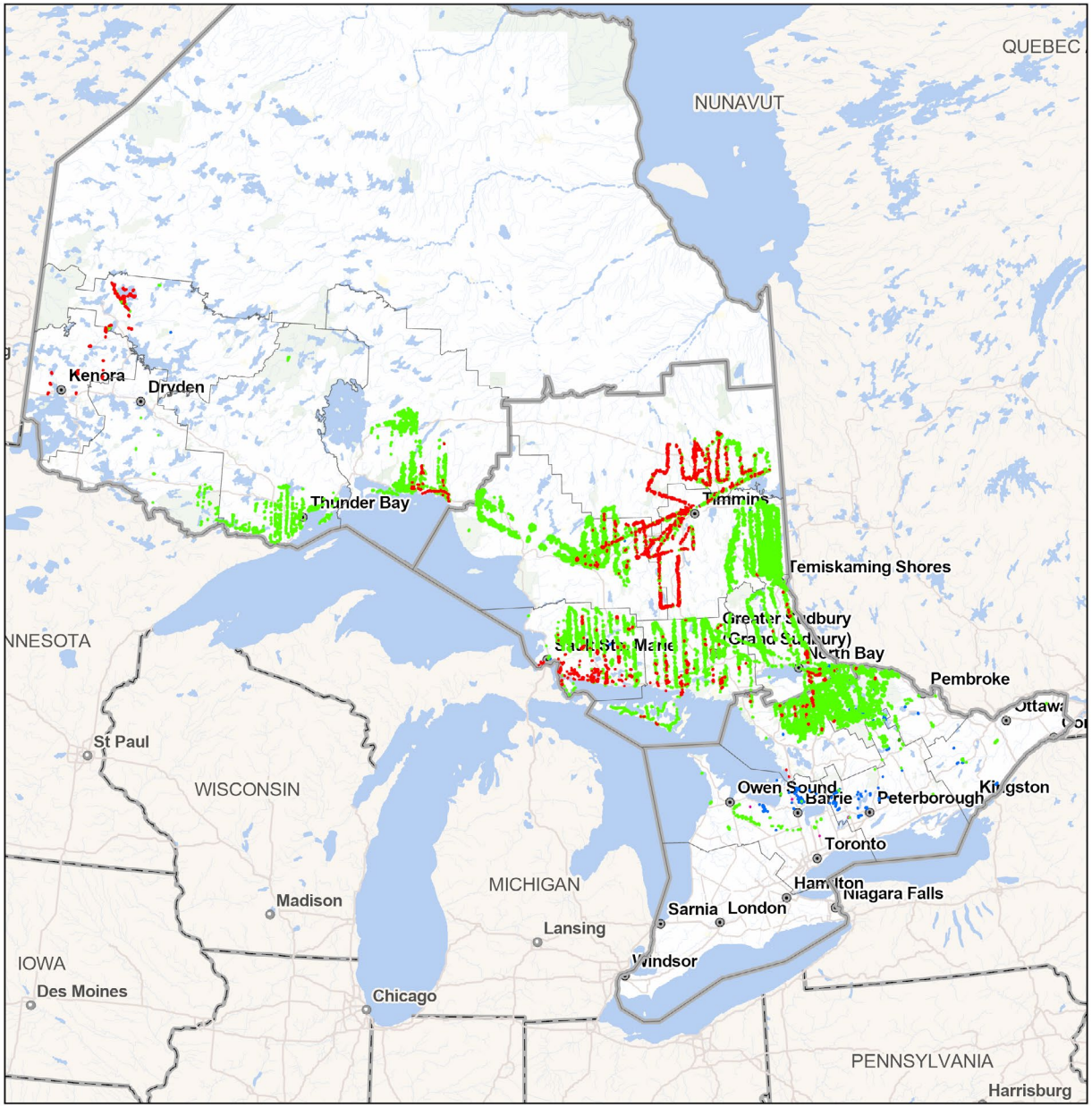
Major forest disturbances are mapped to quantify annual status and support trend analysis. The following table outlines area (in hectares) of mapped defoliation/damage by severity class for major disturbances in 2025.

Common name	Light	Moderate to severe	Tree mortality	Total
Blowdown	0	6,086	0	6,086
Brown spot needle blight	3	544	0	547
Cedar leafminer	0	1,672	0	1,672
Emerald ash borer	0	0	1,938	1,938
Forest tent caterpillar	0	131,730	0	131,730
Ice	56	3,394	0	3,450
Jack pine budworm	217	1,082	0	1,299
Satin moth	0	2,399	0	2,399
Spruce budworm	154	695,740	80,097	775,991
Willow leafminer	0	342	0	342

Major forest disturbances maps

Provincial overview

Forest damage rankings 2025



Biotic damage (insects and disease)

- Light 375 ha
- Moderate-Severe 834,385 ha
- Mortality 90,705 ha

Abiotic damage (blowdown, severe weather)

- Light 104 ha
- Moderate-Severe 11,985 ha

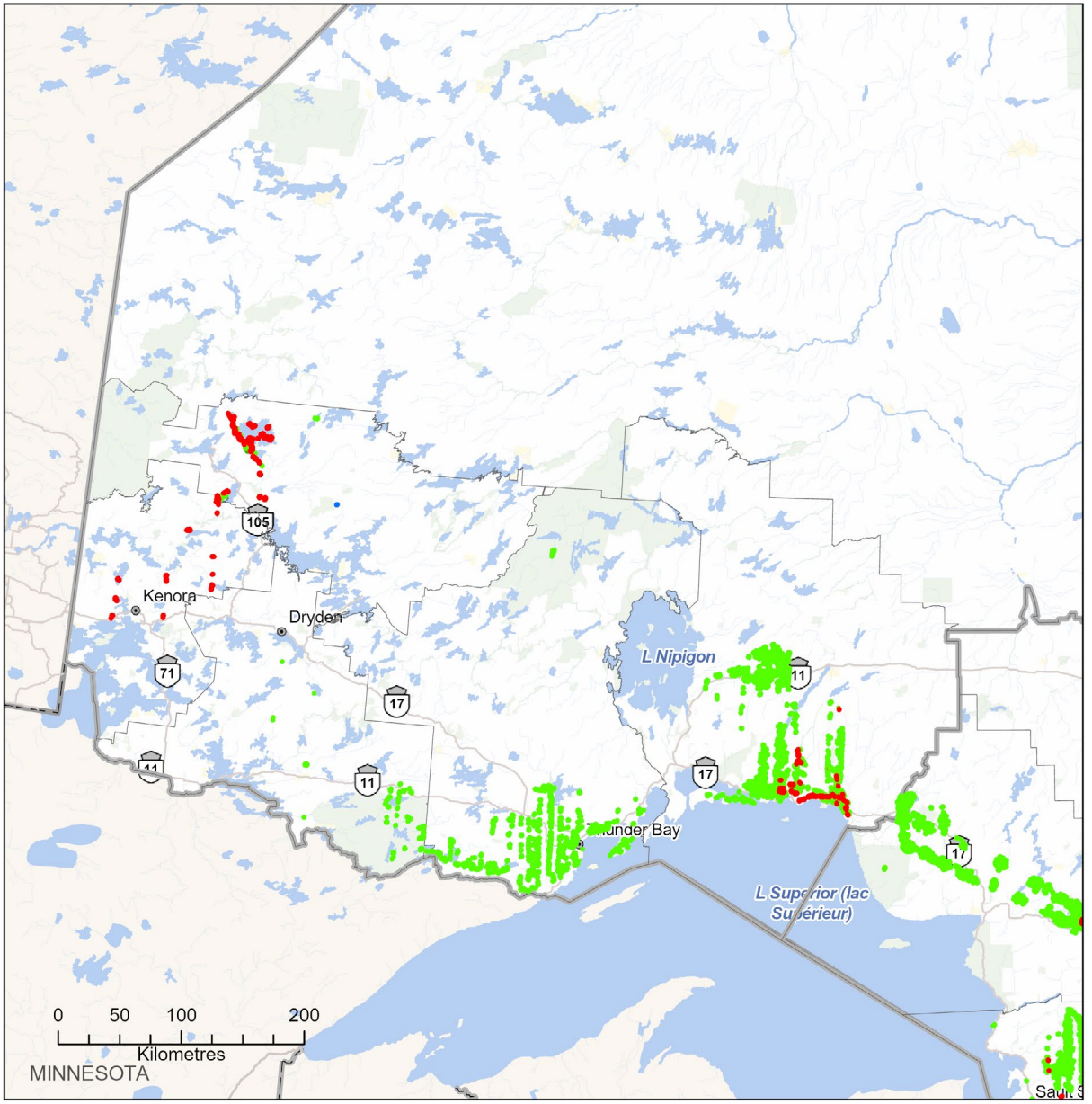
Northwest Region Forest damage rankings 2025

Biotic damage (insects and disease)

- Light 217 ha
- Moderate-Severe 67,764 ha
- Mortality 12,358 ha

Abiotic damage (blowdown, severe weather)

- Moderate-Severe 27 ha



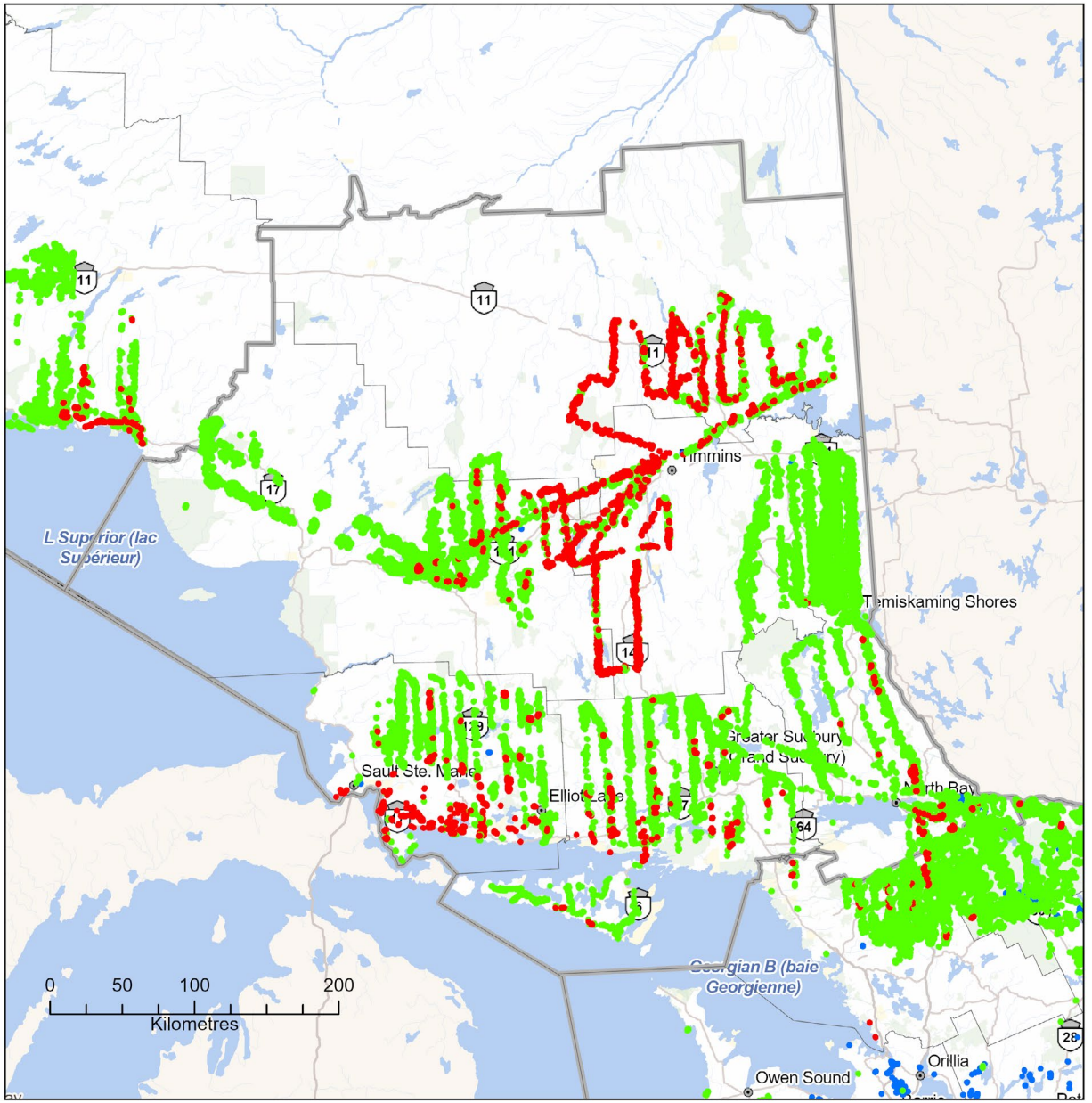
Northeast Region Forest damage rankings 2025

Biotic damage (insects and disease)

- Moderate-Severe 560,191 ha
- Mortality 76,407 ha

Abiotic damage (blowdown, severe weather)

- Moderate-Severe 2,939 ha



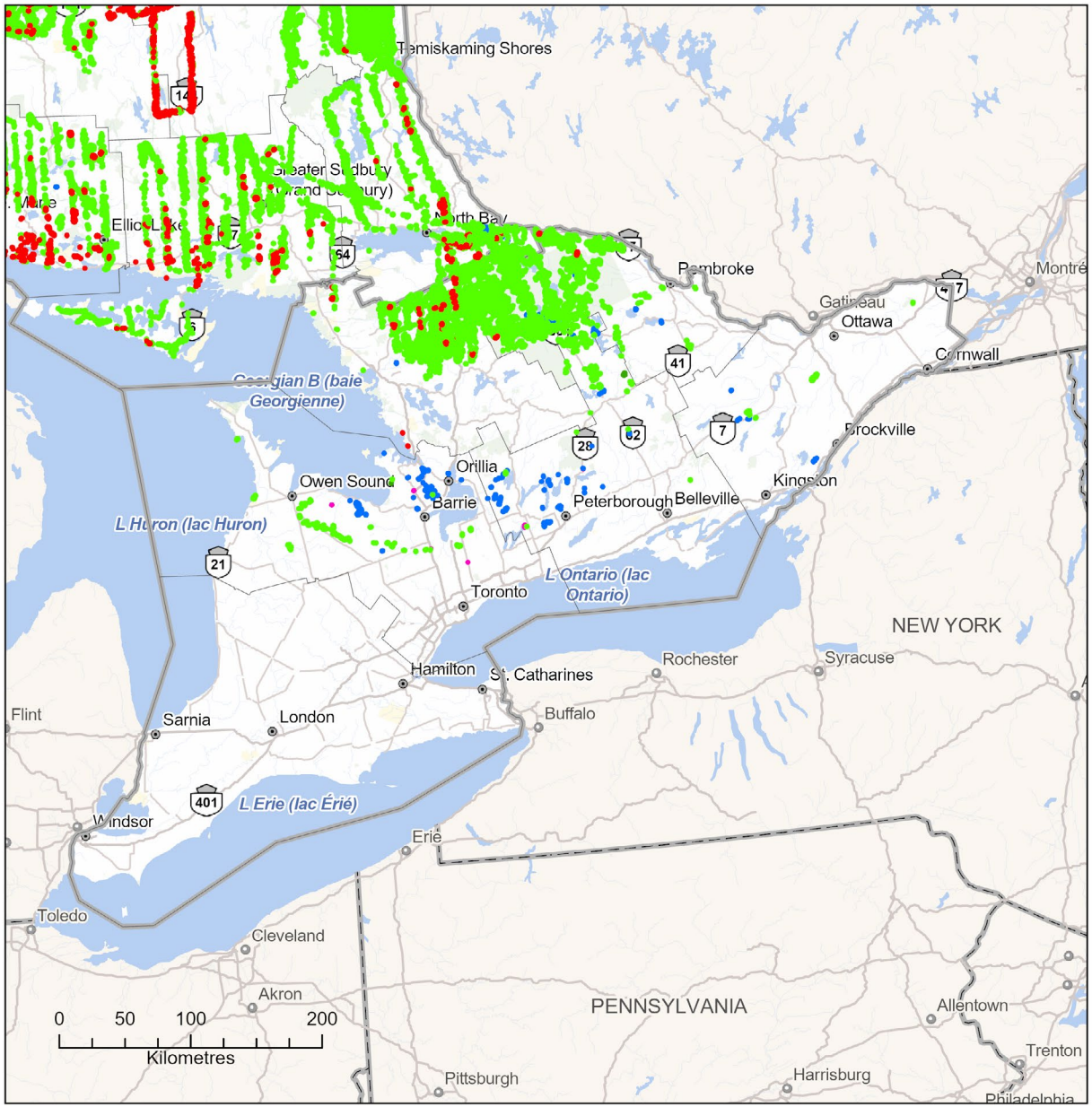
Southern Region Forest damage rankings 2025

Biotic damage (insects and disease)

- Light 158 ha
- Moderate-Severe 206,430 ha
- Mortality 1,940 ha

Abiotic damage (blowdown, severe weather)

- Light 104 ha
- Moderate-Severe 9,019 ha

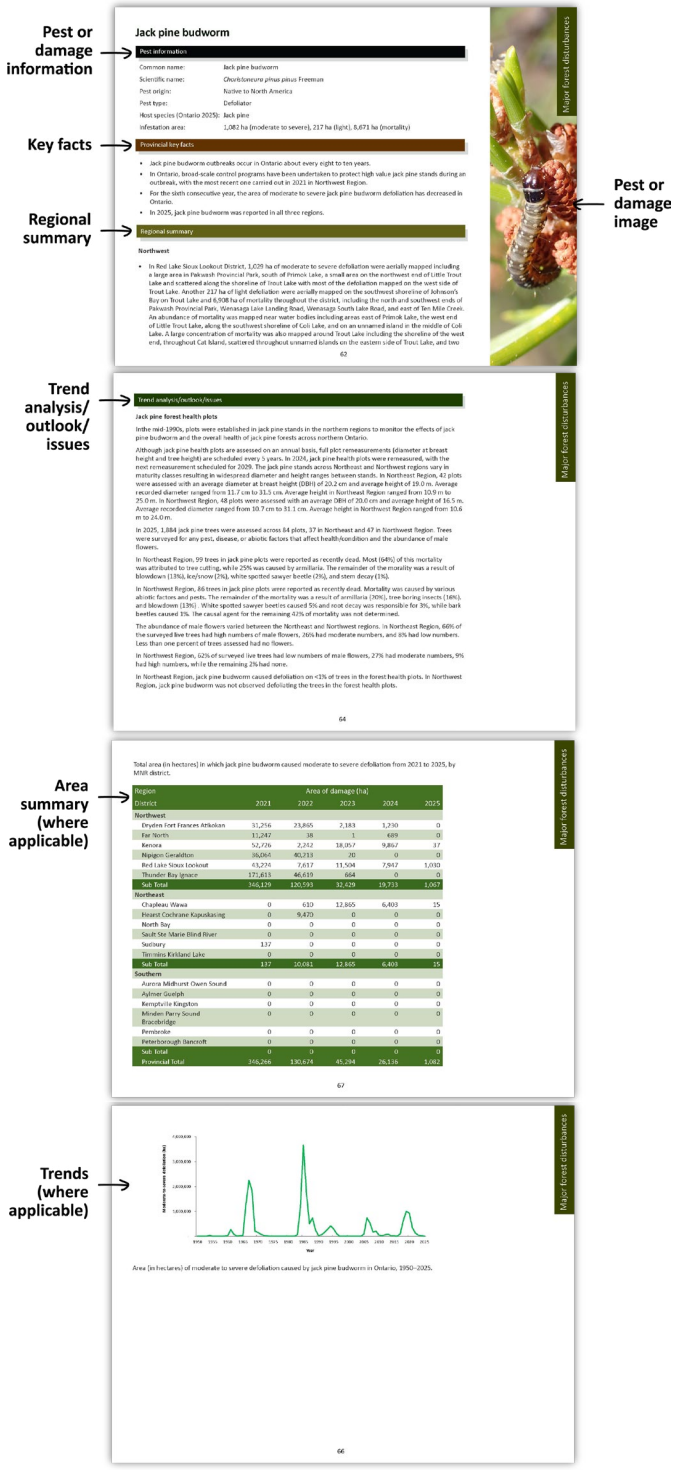


Example report

How to read a disturbance report

Each report summarizes information about an event or disturbance affecting the health of Ontario's forests, and may include:

- **Pest/damage information** – basic information about the disturbance, including the type, origin, host species, and area affected that year
- **Key facts** – overview of the disturbance, including provincial scale information about the disturbance, possible effects, and annual activity
- **Regional summary** – regional summaries, outlining more specific information by MNR administrative region (Northwest, Northeast, Southern)
- **Image** – a photo of the disturbance or pest
- **Outlook** – where applicable, an overview of potential future implications and developments for the disturbance
- **Trends** – where applicable, additional information about possible trends
- **Area summary** – where applicable, information about the total area in which the disturbance caused moderate to severe damage from 2021 to 2025 by MNR region and district.

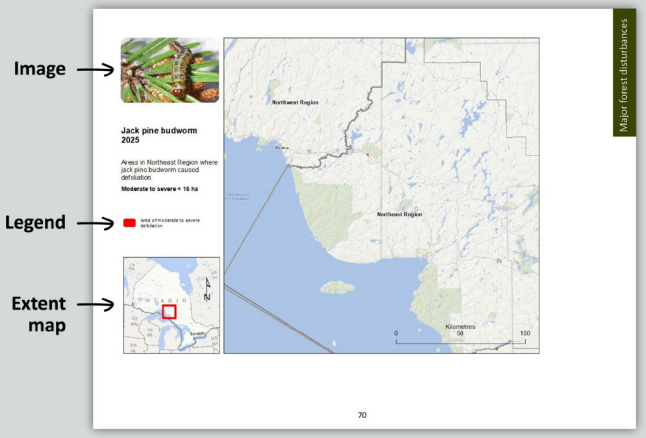


Example map

How to read the maps in this report

For major disturbances, the following spatial information is provided:

- **Damage map** – shows the areas of infestation or damage. Light damage is typically shown in orange, moderate to severe damage in red, and mortality in yellow. Smaller areas are outlined in pink to make them stand out.
- **Image** – photo of the disturbance or pest
- **Legend** – describes map features
- **Extent map** – map of Ontario with the focal area outlined in deep red



Beech bark disease

Pest information

Common name:	Beech bark disease
Scientific name:	*Neonectria faginata* (Lohman, Watson & Ayers) Castl. & Rossman*, Neonectria ditissima* (Tul. & Tul.) Samuels & Rossman
Pest origin:	Invasive — native to Europe
Pest type:	Canker
Host species (Ontario 2025):	American beech
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- Beech bark disease is the result of an insect-fungal pathogen complex initiated by the infestation of beech scale *(Cryptococcus fagisuga* Lindinger*)* on American beech.
- As the insect and fungus become established in a stand, they reduce growth, deform trees, decrease wood quality and mast production, and may cause early tree death.
- Beech bark disease has been identified across the range of beech in Ontario, as far north as St. Joseph Island, Sault Ste. Marie Blind River District.
- Three distinct phases of beech bark disease development are evident in Ontario:
  - Advancing front: Beech scale populations have recently colonized unaffected beech trees. Scale infestations combined with other stressors can contribute to beech decline.
  - Killing front: Scale populations build rapidly and the fungus colonizes trees. The killing front is characterized by high tree mortality.
  - Aftermath forest: The disease has passed through and remains endemic. Large remnant trees continue to decline and young trees become infected, disfigured, and gradually decline.
- In 2025, beech bark disease was observed in Northeast and Southern regions.

Regional summary

Northeast

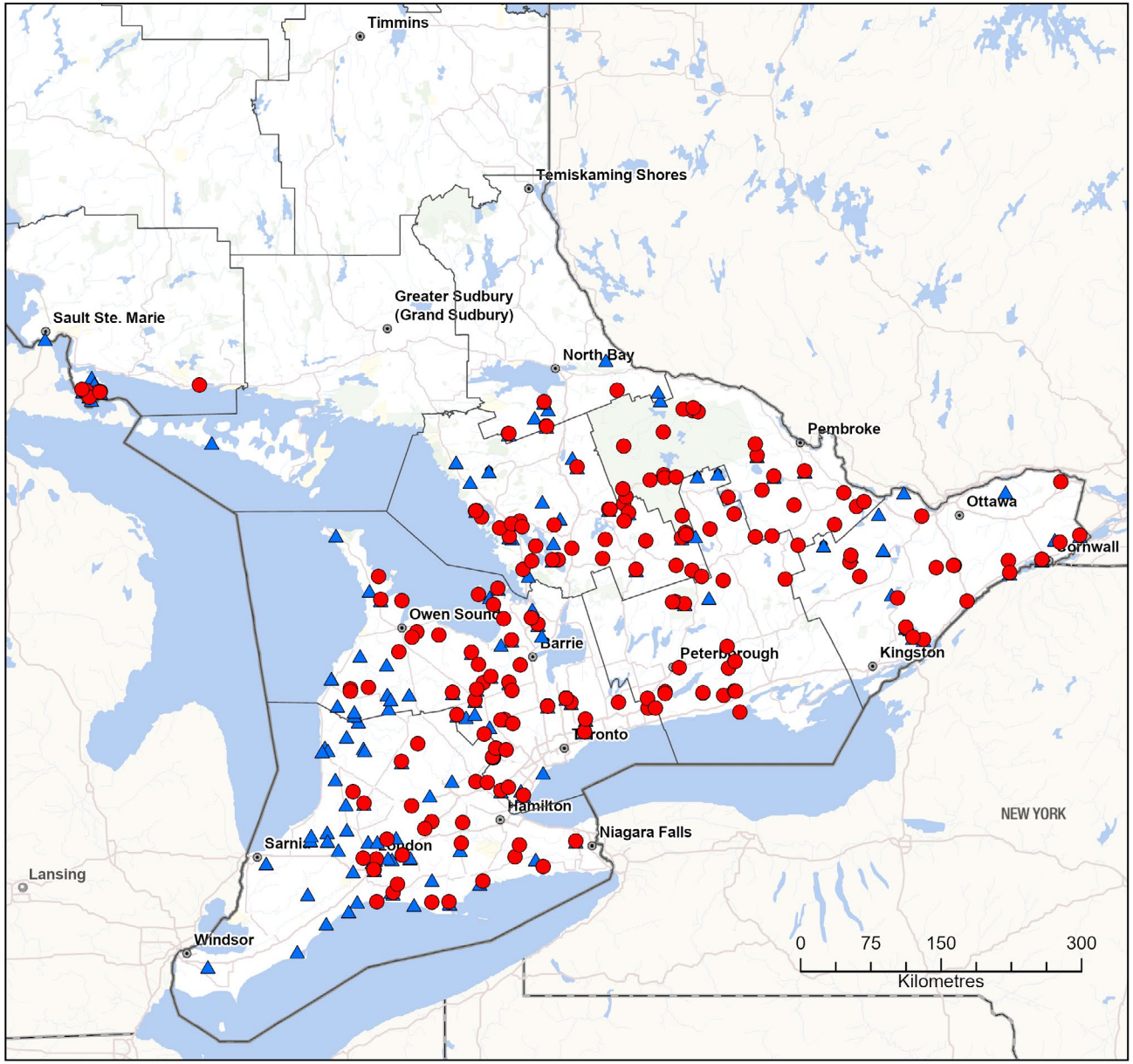
- In Sault Ste. Marie Blind River District, beech bark disease was collected in a hardwood stand along a Hydro Line off High Road in Striker Twp. Fruiting bodies of the disease were observed and most mature beech in the stand had healthy crowns, but some showed symptoms of light decline.
- In North Bay District, trace beech bark disease damage was collected south of Hwy 522 along Legrou Lake Road near Arnstein and Rye Road in Commanda.

Southern

- In Aylmer Guelph District, moderate to severe beech bark disease damage was observed at Hammond Hemlock Slough Forest located east of Port Dover on Hwy 6 in Norfolk County. All mature beech surveyed at this site had many coalesced stem cankers. In Wellington County, moderate to severe beech bark disease damage was observed at Little Tract in Puslinch Twp. A cluster of mature beech trees were recorded with coalesced stem cankers and associated tree mortality. In Perth County, moderate beech bark disease damage was observed at Sawyer Preservation Woodlot in West Perth, where fungal fruiting bodies and stem cankers were recorded on several mature beech in the woodlot. In Middlesex County, moderate beech bark disease damage was recorded at Five Points Forest in Thames Centre near Dorchester. Several mature beech trees were observed with stem cankers and associated dieback, in addition to tree mortality.
- In Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge District, severe beech bark disease was observed on affected tree stems in the Bracebridge Resource Management Area and on codominant beech trees along Clear Lake Road in Ardbeg. Fruiting bodies and beech scale were observed at both locations. Mortality caused by beech bark disease was observed in the Bracebridge Resource Management Area on codominant and dominant beech.
- In Peterborough Bancroft District, severe beech bark disease damage was recorded in a semi-mature, beech-dominant stand off Major Lake Road near Hydro Line Road by Madawaska in South Algonquin Twp. New fungal fruiting bodies were present, along with evidence of old cankers and tree mortality and moderate to high beech scale populations. Severe beech bark disease damage was also recorded in a hardwood stand off a forest access road, west of Aylen Lake. In Hasting Highlands, severe beech bark disease was observed in a hardwood stand near Purdy Lake. Mortality of large diameter trees were observed throughout the stand, as was beech scale.

Beech Bark Disease and Beech Scale in Ontario 1999 - 2025

- Beech bark disease detected
- Beech scale detected



Ontario

Beech leaf disease

Pest information

Common name:	Beech leaf disease
Scientific name:	*Litylenchus crenatae mccannii* Handoo et al. 2020
Pest origin:	Invasive — Unknown
Pest type:	Leaf blight
Host species (Ontario 2025):	American beech
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- Beech leaf disease was first identified in the United States in Lake County, Ohio, in 2012 and has since been detected west from Michigan, northeast to Maine, and southeast to North Carolina. In Ontario, it occurs between Lake Erie and Georgian Bay and along the shores of Lake Ontario.
- Symptoms of beech leaf disease were first confirmed in southern Ontario in 2017 in Aylmer District.
- The primary symptom is striping or banding on leaves caused by the thickening of tissue between veins. Severely affected leaves have yellowed bands and are coarse and curled. Early leaf drop of severely affected leaves and bud abortion make tree crowns appear thin. Mortality occurs with saplings dying more quickly than overstory trees.
- The beech leaf nematode releases chemicals while feeding on developing cells in buds. These chemicals, meant to increase the number of feeding cells for the nematode, cause a thickened, jumbled layer of cells in American beech leaves which reduces the ability of leaves to convert and store energy from sunlight.
- Beech leaf disease symptoms have been confirmed in Southern Region in locations in Aylmer Guelph, Aurora Midhurst Owen Sound, and Peterborough Bancroft districts.
- In 2025, new beech leaf disease detections were made in districts where beech leaf disease had previously been confirmed in Southern Region.

Regional summary

Southern

- In Aylmer Guelph District, severe beech leaf disease foliar symptoms were observed on all age and canopy classes of American beech along a forest edge at Silver Clay Line, near the intersection of Macpherson Line in Elgin County. Entire tree crowns exhibited symptoms of thinning, yellowing, and premature leaf drop. In Norfolk County, severe beech leaf disease damage was recorded west of Fairground at a county forest on Old Dump Road and at Harvey Tract on North Road. Severe beech leaf disease damage was also observed at Wilson Tract on 4th Concession Road, Fisher Tract on Fishers Glen Road, Gibel Tract on Mall Road near Tillsonburg, and Hammond Hemlock Slough Forest and Hay Creek Conservation Area near Port Dover. Moderate beech leaf disease symptoms were recorded at St. Williams Conservation Reserve – Turkey Point Tract, north of Charlotteville Road 1, and along Mill Pond Road in Vittoria. In southern Lambton County, moderate to severe beech leaf disease foliar symptoms were reported on several intermediate beech trees at Reid Conservation Area near Duthill. The characteristic foliar banding was concentrated in the lower crown of affected trees. In Middlesex County, moderate beech leaf disease damage was observed affecting young, understory beech in a forest at the intersection of Argyll Drive and Watterworth Road (Southwest Middlesex). In Hamilton, moderate beech leaf disease damage was observed at McMaster Forest Nature Preserve affecting understory American beech, and the lower crowns of mature beech.
- In Peterborough Bancroft District, severe beech leaf disease symptoms were observed in a small beech dominant woodlot off Elgin Street East in Cobourg. Foliar symptoms were present on most of the beech trees surveyed and affected entire crowns of mature trees. In Prince Edward County, moderate beech leaf disease symptoms were detected in Beaver Meadow Wildlife Management Area, affecting American beech of all ages. This detection was the first record of beech leaf disease in the county. Leaves exhibited symptomatic banding and appeared chlorotic and shrivelled. In Quinte West, light beech leaf disease symptoms were reported at Hollinger Park near Oak Lake on saplings and intermediate beech trees. The severity of leaf symptoms ranged from trace to moderate in a small cluster of beech trees off the trail. In Northumberland County, light beech leaf disease symptoms were reported in Peter's Woods Provincial Park, affecting beech saplings intermittently along a trail. At Goodrich Loomis Conservation Area, trace beech leaf disease symptoms were detected on beech saplings near Esker Trail and Loop D'Loop Trail. Trace beech leaf disease damage was also detected off Huckleberry Lane in Northumberland County Forest, with a small number of saplings affected in the understory of a pine-oak stand.
- In Aurora Midhurst Owen Sound District, severe beech leaf disease symptoms were observed in Durham Region at Stephen's Gulch Conservation Area, affecting American beech saplings and small trees. Symptoms included foliar banding, shrivelled and stunted leaves, early leaf drop, and twig dieback. In Dufferin County, severe beech leaf disease was observed on fringe American beech trees at Dufferin County Forest – Mono Tract, representing

the first record of beech leaf disease in the county. In Halton Region, light foliar symptoms were observed on understory beech trees at Halton Regional Forest – Britton Tract on Sixth Line Nassagaweya. In York Region, light foliar symptoms were detected in the understory at two locations: Whitchurch Conservation Area, and York Regional Forest - Hollidge Tract, north of Ballantrae. These detections were the first records of beech leaf disease made by MNR forest health field staff in York Region.

Trend analysis/outlook/issues

Work on beech leaf disease is ongoing with several partners. In 2025, MNR carried out two beech leaf disease monitoring studies.

One study was the continuation of the long-term beech health assessment plots in Aylmer Guelph District (established in 2019) to determine the combined effects of beech leaf disease, beech scale, and beech bark disease on the health of beech trees and beech forests in Ontario. Trends observed in 2025 were similar to those in 2023. Infection rates continued to climb with 98% of surveyed beech trees and saplings infected. Sapling mortality increased to 35% with the smallest saplings most affected. Larger saplings are alive, but many are developing thin crowns from early leaf drop. Beech tree mortality was 19%, due to contributing factors like beech bark disease, environmental stress, and beech leaf disease.

The second study was to investigate beech seed as a means of facilitating movement of the *Litylenchus crenatae mccannii* (LCM) nematode. Field staff collected and submitted beech seed from the ground and from beech branches at sites with and without beech leaf disease foliar symptoms in Southern and Northeast regions. Seed samples were analyzed for the presence of LCM nematodes and results are pending.

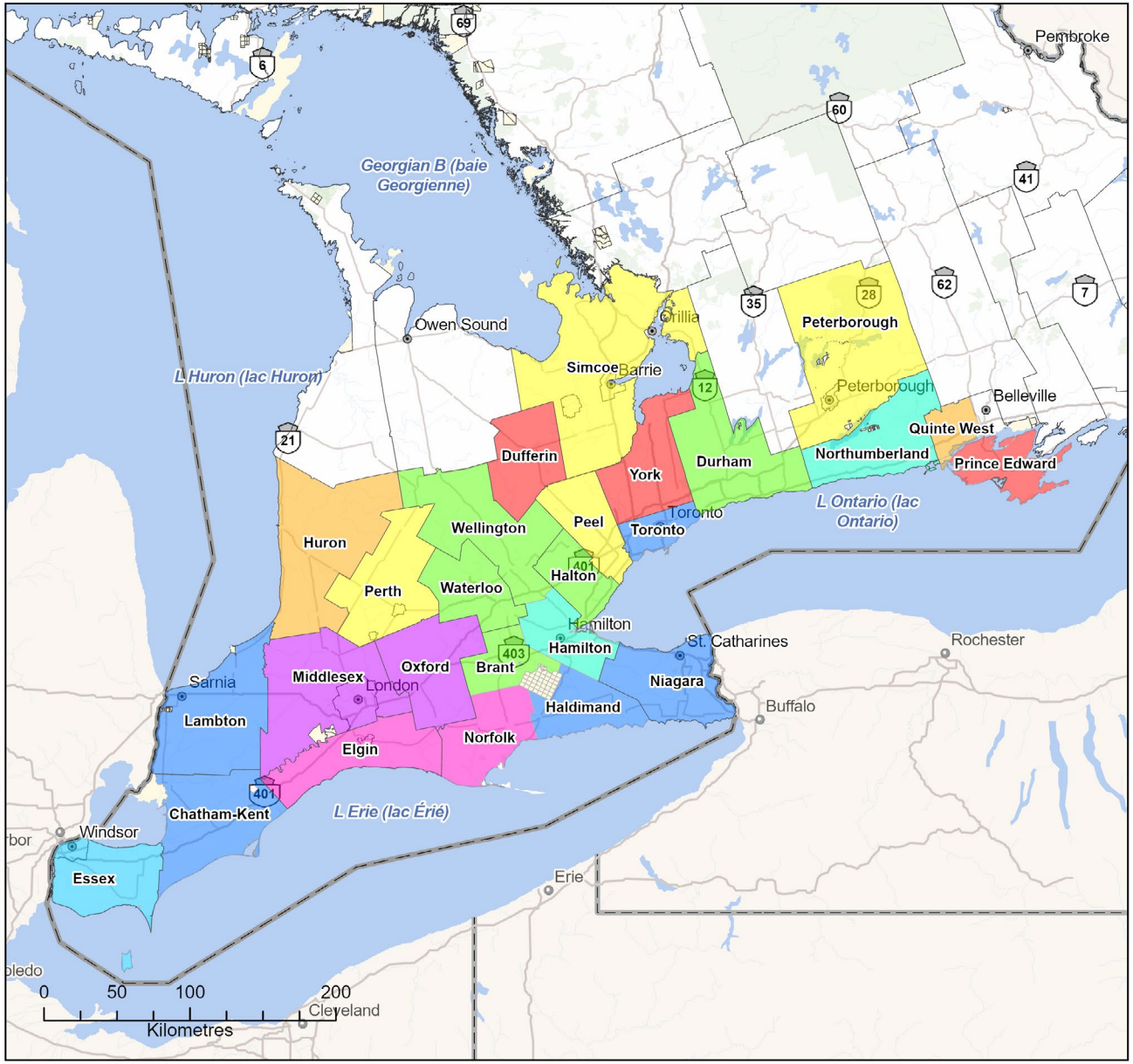
Beech leaf disease in Ontario

Upper and single tier municipalities where beech leaf disease has been confirmed

Year of detection

- 2017
- 2018
- 2019
- 2020
- 2021
- 2022
- 2023
- 2024
- 2025

Ontario



Blowdown

Pest information

Common name:	Blowdown
Scientific name:	NA
Pest origin:	NA
Pest type:	Abiotic
Host species (Ontario 2025):	NA
Infestation area:	6086 ha (severe)

Provincial key facts

- Blowdown, damage to trees caused by high winds or extreme weather events, is a natural disturbance process in forests. The extent and frequency of such damage is sporadic.
- In 2025, localized areas of blowdown were aerially mapped in all three regions.

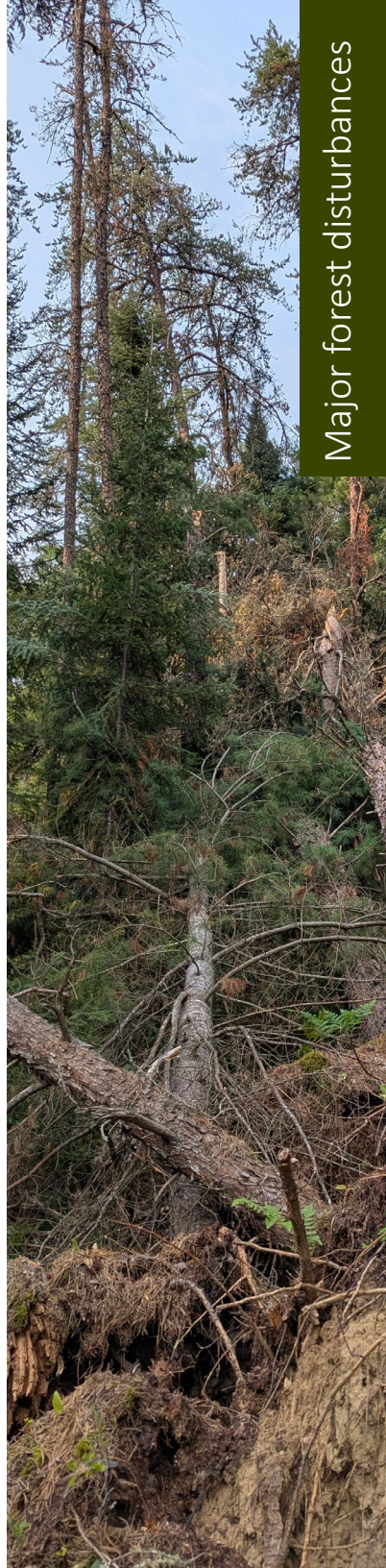
Regional summary

Northwest

- In Red Lake Sioux Lookout District, 27 ha of blowdown were mapped about 50 km north of Lac Seul.

Northeast

- In North Bay District, 2758 ha of blowdown were aerially mapped in Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park and the outlying areas of Papineau Cameron Twp and Calvin Twp. Areas of blowdown were also observed along Klock's Road east of Mattawa. On June 21, 2025, Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park was hit by a powerful downburst causing extensive tree damage and hazardous conditions, leading to its closure for the rest of the season. The Northern Tornadoes Project is continuing to process data on the damage. The park remains inaccessible due to downed trees, some of which are being salvaged for lumber by the Algonquin Forestry Authority, with ongoing repair work at the Canadian Ecology Centre.
- In Timmins Kirkland Lake District, 110 ha of blowdown were aerially mapped east of the Town of Ramore.



- In Sault Ste. Marie Blind River District, 66 ha of blowdown were mapped, including a small red pine plantation on 4th Line in Sault Ste. Marie, a small area of a red pine plantation north of Havilah on Poplar Dale Road, and an area of deciduous forest north of Kirkpatrick Lake in Simons Twp.
- In Chapleau Wawa District, 6 ha of severe blowdown were aerially mapped, north of Hwy 101, east of Renée Lake, and west of Carty Lake, in Warren Twp.

Southern

- In Pembroke District, 2342 ha of blowdown were aerially mapped. In Algonquin Park, multiple areas of blowdown were recorded with damage occurring northwest to southeast from Happy Isle Lake, along the southern shore of Opeongo Lake, to Booth Lake. Multiple areas of blowdown were also recorded near Lake Traverse, and north of Devine Lake. In Renfrew County, two small areas of blowdown were mapped east of Round Lake near Brewster Lake, and two small areas near Golden Lake in Pikwakanagan First Nation Reserve.
- In Peterborough Bancroft District, 585 ha of blowdown were aerially mapped. In South Algonquin Twp, multiple small areas of blowdown were mapped near McFee Lake, Opeongo River between Spectacle Lake and Aylen Lake, and one small area off Hwy 60 by Amable Creek. In Hastings Highlands Twp, four small areas were mapped near Birds Creek between High Falls Trail and Hwy 62. Areas of blowdown were also recorded along Madawaska Road near Little Papineau Lake Road. In Tudor and Cashel Twp, one small area of blowdown was mapped near the south end of Steenburg Lake.
- In Kemptville Kingston District, 134 ha of blowdown were mapped during ground surveys. In Leeds and Grenville, a few areas of blowdown were mapped along Junetown Road in Junetown and County Road 4 and Blue Mountain Road between Rockfield and Tilley. In Lanark County, small areas of blowdown were mapped along Zealand Road and South Sherbrooke 11th Line north of Silver Lake, and in areas surrounding McGowan Lake in Maberly (Tay Valley Twp). In Lanark Highlands Twp, one small area of blowdown was aerially mapped south of Lavant, off Lavant Mill Road.
- In Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge District, 59 ha of severe blowdown were mapped south of Hurdville Road in McKeller Twp and east of Sundridge in Joly Twp.

Total area (in hectares) in which blowdown caused severe damage and/or mortality in 2021–2025 by MNR district.

Region	Area of damage (ha)				
District	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Northwest					
Dryden Fort Frances Atikokan	0	133	37	199	0
Far North	0	0	0	0	0
Kenora	0	145	346	291	0
Nipigon Geraldton	0	0	0	0	0
Red Lake Sioux Lookout	30	79	29	535	27
Thunder Bay Ignace	7	265	569	300	0
Subtotal	37	622	981	1,325	27
Northeast					
Chapleau Wawa	0	65	0	0	6
Hearst Cochrane Kapuskasing	0	350	33	0	0
North Bay	39	13	0	50	2,758
Sault Ste Marie Blind River	364	119	74	58	65
Sudbury	188	0	0	0	0
Timmins Kirkland Lake	13	60	126	210	110
Subtotal	604	607	234	318	2,939
Southern					
Aurora Midhurst Owen Sound	0	0	0	0	0
Aylmer Guelph	0	0	0	0	0
Kemptville Kingston	0	2,715	770	0	134
Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge	63	0	0	0	59
Pembroke	0	716	262	0	2,342
Peterborough Bancroft	0	5,903	2,085	0	585
Subtotal	63	9,334	3,117	0	3,120
Provincial total	704	10,563	4,332	1,643	6,086

Blowdown 2025

Areas in Ontario where blowdown caused damage

Severe = 6,086 ha

Area of severe damage

Blowdown 2025

Areas in Northwest Region where blowdown caused damage

Severe = 27 ha

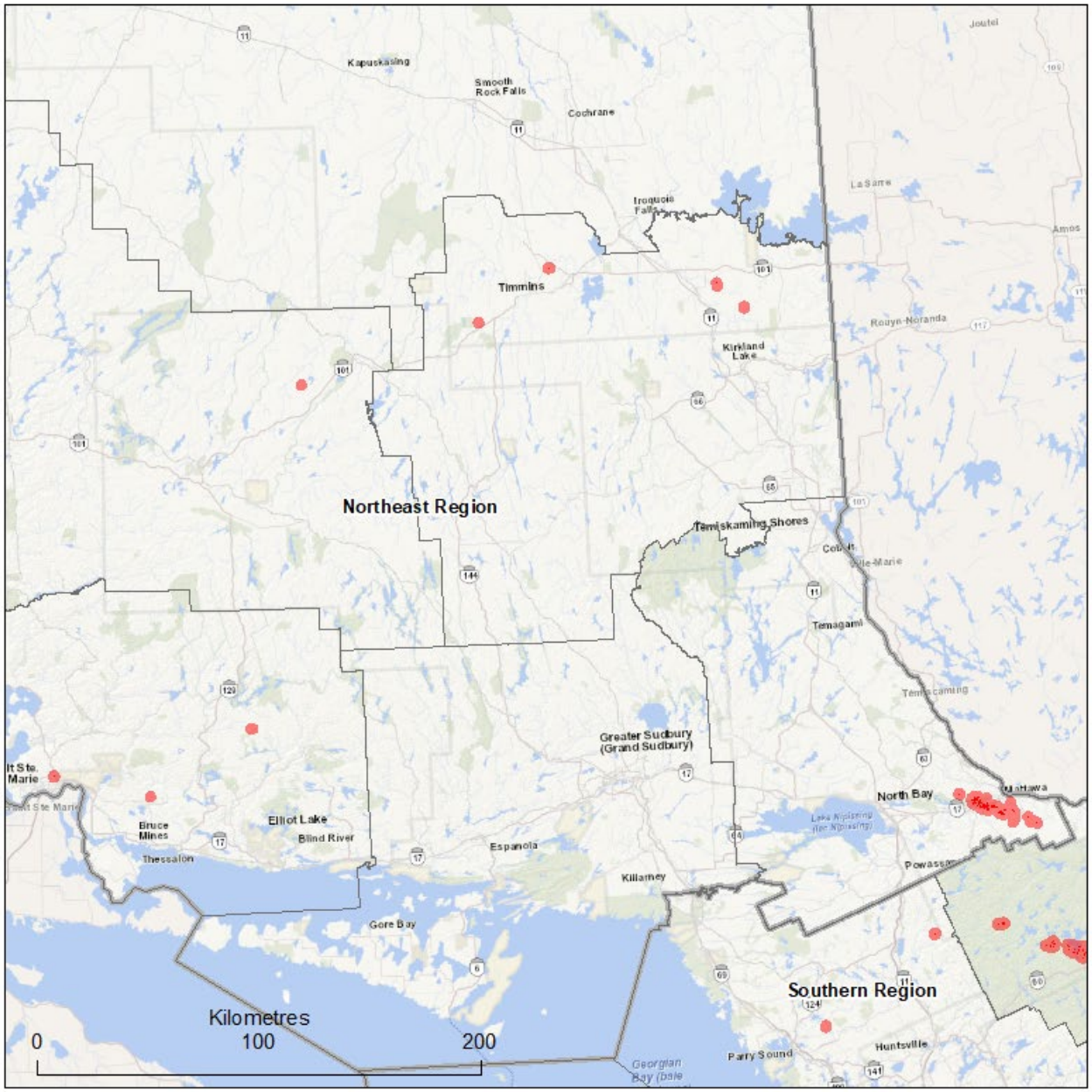
Area of severe damage

Blowdown 2025

Areas in Northeast Region where blowdown caused damage

Severe = 2,939 ha

Area of severe damage

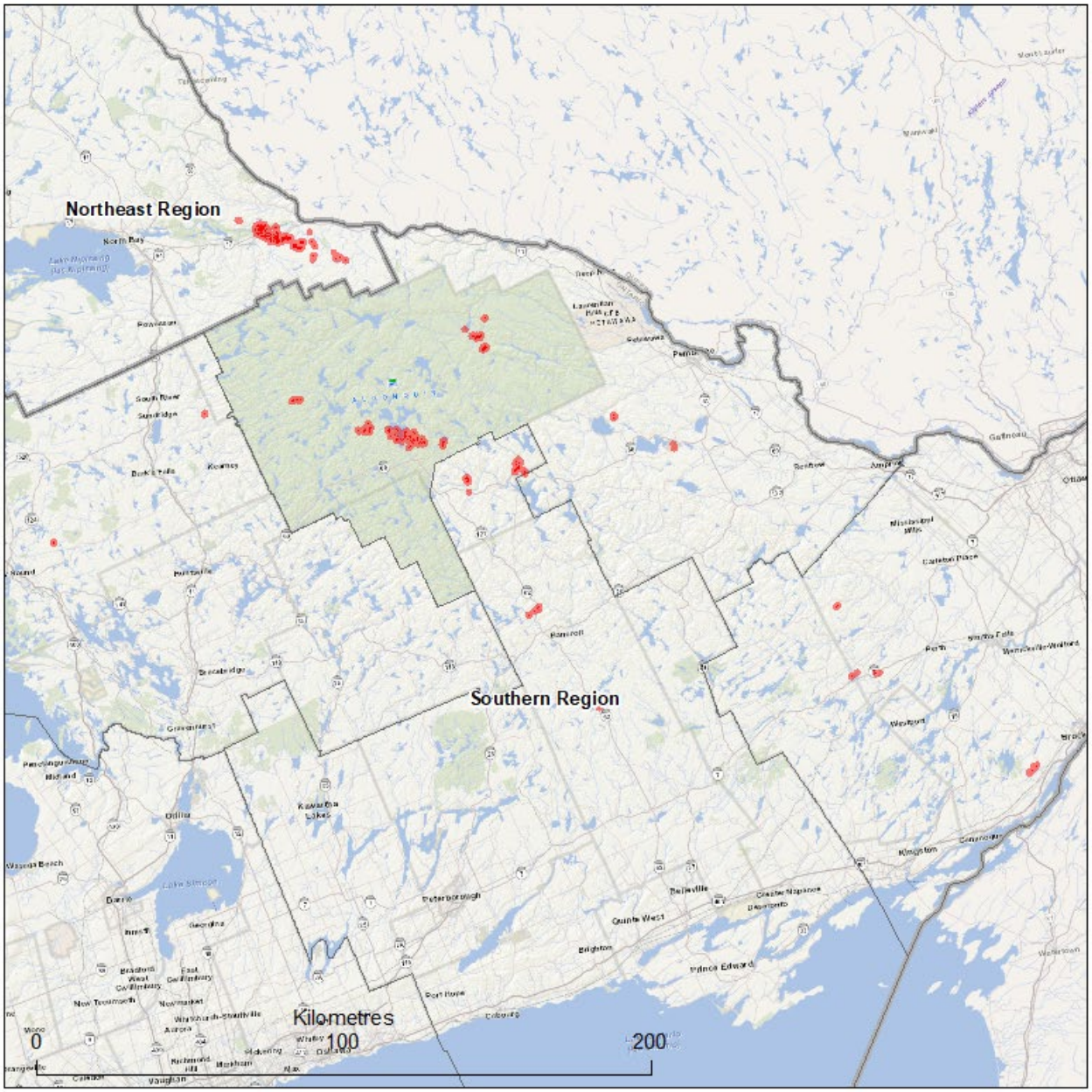


Blowdown 2025

Areas in Southern Region where blowdown caused damage

Severe = 3,120 ha

Area of severe damage



Brown spot needle blight

Pest information

Common name:	Brown spot needle blight
Scientific name:	*Lecanosticta acicola* (Thüm.) Syd.
Pest origin:	Native to North America
Pest type:	Needle blight
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Scots pine, red pine
Infestation area:	544 ha (moderate to severe), 3 ha (light)

Provincial key facts

- This disease affects pines, especially Scots and Austrian pines, of all ages but is most damaging to seedlings and smaller trees.
- Several years of infection by brown spot needle blight reduces tree growth. Coupled with other factors, such as drought and secondary insect attack, this blight may result in branch and tree mortality.
- In some affected locations, previous years' needles turn brown and drop in June, leaving only current years' shoots on trees.
- In 2025, scattered areas of new brown spot needle blight damage were mapped and observed in Southern Region.

Regional summary

Southern

- In Aurora Midhurst Owen Sound District, 544 ha of moderate to severe and 3 ha of light brown spot needle blight damage were mapped across the district during aerial surveys. In Grey County, scattered areas of moderate to severe brown spot needle blight damage affecting Scots pine were mapped around Beaver Valley in an area between Flesherton and Kimberly. Intermittent areas of moderate to severe damage were mapped along Hwy 10 between Markdale and Holfrod, in Berkley along Hwy 10 and Sideroad 60, and an area west of Holland Centre. In Dufferin County, areas of moderate to severe brown spot needle blight damage affecting Scots pine were mapped in Mulmur Twp along Dufferin County Road 18 (Airport Road), and in Mansfield. A small area of moderate to severe damage was also mapped along Centre Road near Honeywood. In York

Region, moderate to severe brown spot needle blight damage affecting Scots pine was mapped south of Baldwin along Hwy 48 in the Town of Georgina and along Queensville Sideroad East. In Simcoe County, moderate to severe brown spot needle blight damage affecting Scots pine was mapped near the intersection of Old Barrie Road West and Line 6 North in Oro-Medonte Twp. In Tiny Twp, moderate to severe brown spot needle blight damage affecting red pine was mapped along Skylark Road at Concession Road 5 West. An additional three hectares of light damage affecting red pine were mapped east of Deanlea Beach along Concession Road 4 West.

- In Kemptville Kingston District, moderate to severe brown spot needle blight damage was observed affecting semi-mature and mature Scots pine in the City of Ottawa along the Osgoode Link Pathway west of Leitrim, in a recreational park near Long Island Road in Manotick, and along the roadside at Reid's Corners.
- In Aylmer Guelph District, moderate to severe brown spot needle blight damage was observed affecting young, open-grown Scots pine at Turkey Point Provincial Park in Norfolk County.

Total area (in hectares) in which brown spot needle blight caused moderate to severe damage in 2021–2025 by MNR district.

Region / District	Area of damage (ha) 2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Northwest					
Dryden Fort Frances Atikokan	0	0	0	0	0
Far North	0	0	0	0	0
Kenora	0	0	0	0	0
Nipigon Geraldton	0	0	0	0	0
Red Lake Sioux Lookout	0	0	0	0	0
Thunder Bay Ignace	0	0	0	0	0
Sub Total	0	0	0	0	0
Northeast					
Chapleau Wawa	0	0	0	0	0
Hearst Cochrane Kapuskasing	0	0	0	0	0
North Bay	0	0	0	0	0
Sault Ste Marie Blind River	0	77	0	57	0
Sudbury	0	0	0	0	0
Timmins Kirkland Lake	0	0	0	0	0
Sub Total	0	77	0	57	0
Southern					
Aurora Midhurst Owen Sound	0	816	495	26	544
Aylmer Guelph	0	798	227	0	0
Kemptville Kingston	0		0	0	0
Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge	327	52	0	0	0
Pembroke	0	0	0	0	0
Peterborough Bancroft	0	130	0	0	0
Sub Total	327	1796	722	26	544
Provincial Total	327	1873	722	83	544

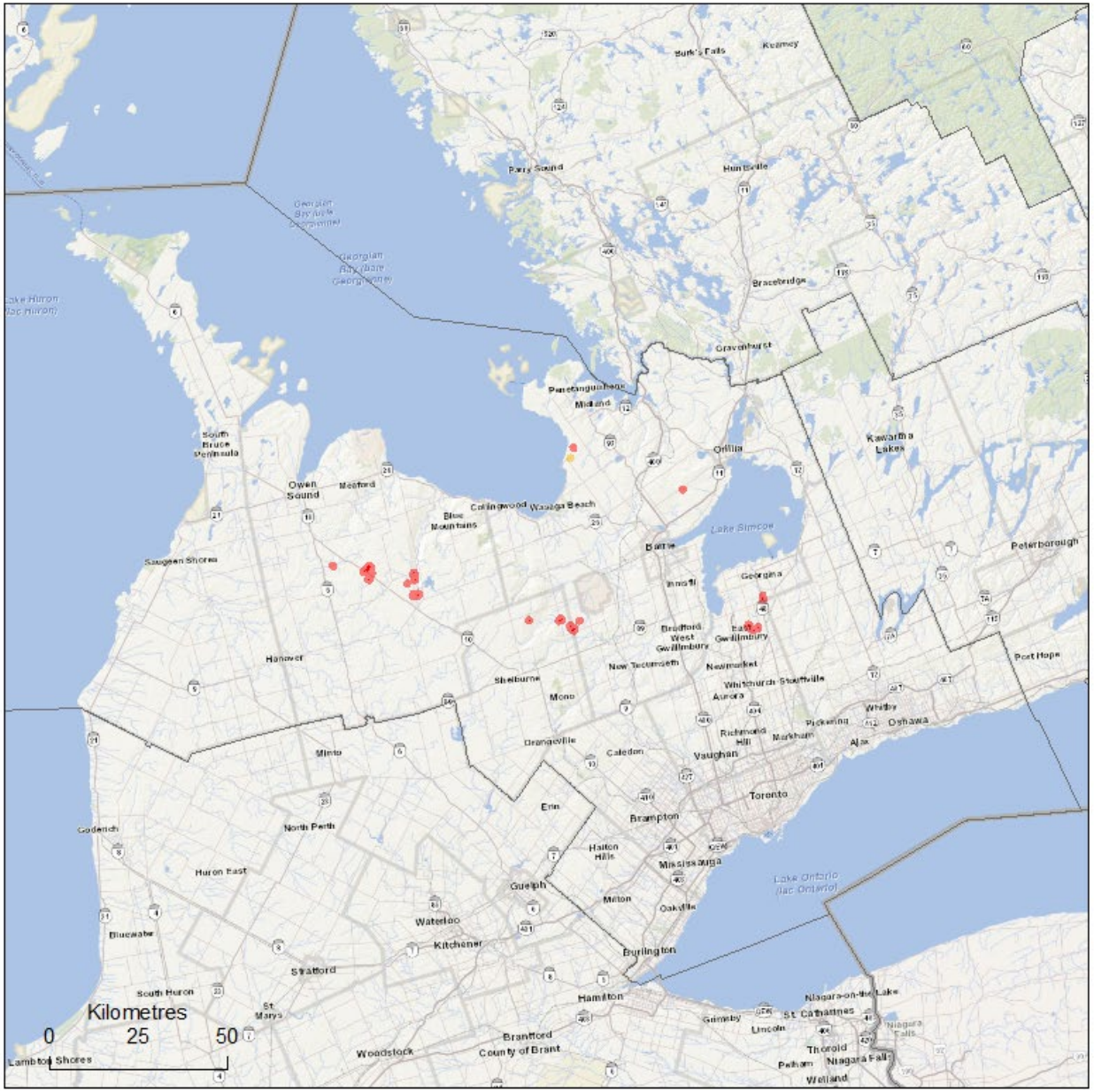
Brown spot needle blight 2025

Areas in Ontario where brown spot needle blight caused defoliation

Light = 3 ha
Moderate to severe = 544 ha

Area of light defoliation

Area of moderate to severe defoliation



Cedar leafminer complex

Pest information

Common name:	Cedar leafminer complex
Scientific name:	*Argyresthia aureoargentella* Brower, *Argyresthia canadensis* Freeman, *Argyresthia thuiella* (Peck), *Coletechnites thujaella* (kft.)
Pest origin:	Native to North America
Pest type:	Defoliator
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Eastern white cedar
Infestation area:	1672 ha (moderate to severe)

Provincial key facts

- Cedar leafminer complex is a group of similar insects that mine cedar foliage, including:
  - *Argyresthia aereoargentella* Brower
  - *Argyresthia canadensis* Freeman
  - *Argyresthia thuiella* (Pack)
  - *Coletechnites thujaella* (Kft.)
- The last widespread cedar leafminer outbreak occurred in Southern Region from 2002 to 2007, resulting in substantial crown dieback and some whole tree mortality.
- In 2025, cedar leafminer defoliation was recorded in Northeast and Southern regions.

Regional summary

Northeast

- In Sault Ste. Marie Blind River District, light cedar leafminer defoliation was observed on eastern white cedar on Dean Lake Road, Missisaugi Bay Road and Woodside Road in Thompson Twp. Light defoliation was also recorded on Hamilton Bay Road near Hilton Beach, A-line Road near Richards Landing, and on most eastern white cedar throughout St. Joseph Twp. Light defoliation also affected most cedar in Fort Creek Conservation Area in Sault Ste. Marie.

Southern

- In Aurora Midhurst Owen Sound District, 902 ha of moderate to severe cedar leafminer defoliation were aerially mapped. In Grey County, scattered areas of moderate to severe defoliation were mapped between Meaford and Chatsworth. Intermittent areas of moderate to severe defoliation were also recorded in the county along Hwy 10 from Chatsworth to Dundalk. In Dufferin County, an area of moderate to severe defoliation was mapped southeast of Honeywood along 2nd Line West, in Mulmur Twp. In Simcoe County, intermittent areas of moderate to severe eastern white cedar defoliation were mapped around Alliston and in areas around Bradford. In the Town of Bradford, moderate to severe defoliation was recorded on cedar at Welsch Tract on 12th Line, south of Cookstown.
- In Kemptville Kingston District, 694 ha of moderate to severe cedar leafminer defoliation were mapped during aerial surveys. In Ottawa, two areas of moderate to severe cedar leafminer defoliation were recorded along Roger Stevens Drive between Malakoff Road and Dwyer Hill Road. In Lankark County, moderate to severe cedar leafminer defoliation was mapped near Bennett Lake off Old Burke Road and Doran Road in Maberly, Tay Valley Twp.
- In Pembroke District, 76 ha of moderate to severe cedar leafminer defoliation were aerially mapped. In Renfrew County, defoliation was mapped in an area south of Hwy 132 and in a second area east of Hwy 41, near Dacre.
- In Aylmer Guelph District, moderate to severe cedar leafminer defoliation was observed in Wellington County at Vance Tract in Puslinch Twp; in Brant County at Apps Mill Conservation Area and Green Lane Sports Complex east of Paris; and in Perth County at Sawyer Preservation Woodlot near Russeldale, and along Trout Creek at the intersection of Road 112 and Perth Oxford Road, where windbreak cedars were affected. In addition, scattered areas of light defoliation were observed across the district. Light defoliation was recorded along trails at Naftel's Creek Conservation Area in Central Huron (Huron County), at Parkhill Conservation Area and in a campground at Big Bend Conservation Area (Middlesex County), at Fleming Tract in Mapleton Twp (Wellington County), and along the SC Johnson Trail east of Paris (Brant County). In Norfolk County, light defoliation was recorded at Hay Creek Conservation Area near Port Dover.
- In Peterborough Bancroft District, moderate cedar leafminer defoliation was observed in several areas. In Peterborough County, moderate defoliation was recorded along Crystal Lake Road , and along County Road 21 from Union Creek Road to Dutch Line Road West in Trent Lakes. In Douro-Dummer Twp, moderate defoliation was recorded on County Road 40 near Crowes Landing. In Hastings County, moderate defoliation was recorded on Upper Turriff Road near Hwy 62. In Kawartha Lakes, moderate cedar leafminer defoliation was reported along Baseline Road, south of Dongola, and along Kirkfield Road near Carden Alvar Provincial Park.

Total area (in hectares) in which cedarleaf miner caused moderate to severe damage in 2021–2025 by MNR district.

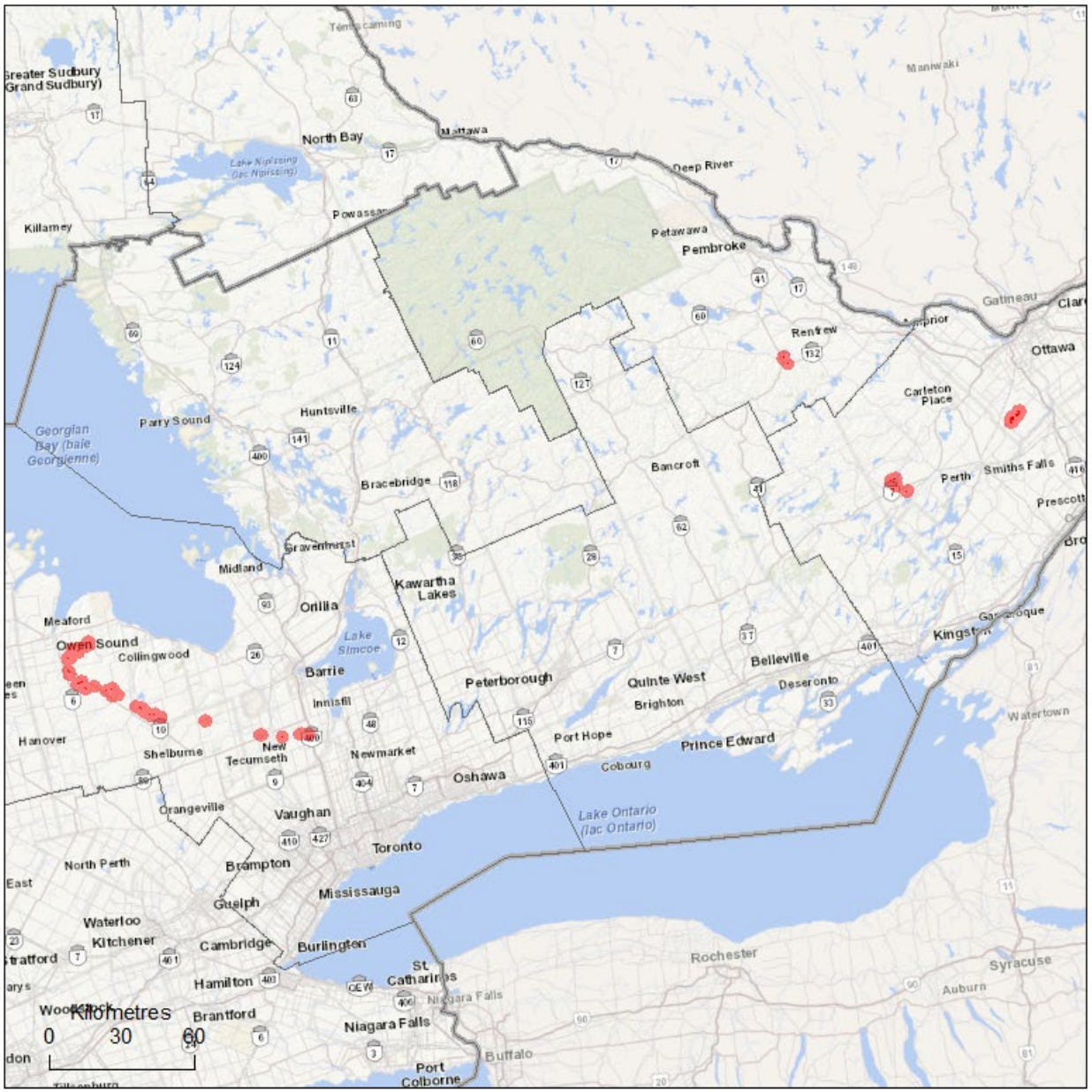
Region	Area of damage (ha)				
District	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Northwest					
Dryden Fort Frances Atikokan	0	0	0	0	0
Far North	0	0	0	0	0
Kenora	0	0	0	0	0
Nipigon Geraldton	0	0	0	0	0
Red Lake Sioux Lookout	0	0	0	0	0
Thunder Bay Ignace	0	0	0	0	0
Sub Total	0	0	0	0	0
Northeast					
Chapleau Wawa	0	0	0	0	0
Hearst Cochrane Kapuskasing	0	0	0	0	0
North Bay	0	0	0	0	0
Sault Ste Marie Blind River	0	0	0	0	0
Sudbury	0	0	0	0	0
Timmins Kirkland Lake	0	0	0	0	0
Sub Total	0	0	0	0	0
Southern					
Aurora Midhurst Owen Sound	0	678	2,493	724	902
Aylmer Guelph	0	2,205	2,058	1,299	0
Kemptville Kingston	3,342	44	0	0	694
Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge	0	0	0	0	0
Pembroke	9,294	11,206	8,455	3,080	76
Peterborough Bancroft	0	0	0	0	0
Sub Total	12,636	14,133	13,006	5,103	1,672
Provincial Total	12,636	14,133	13,006	5,103	1,672

Cedar leafminer 2025

Areas in Ontario where cedar leafminer caused defoliation

Moderate to severe = 1,672 ha

Area of moderate to severe defoliation



Drought

Pest information

Common name:	Drought
Scientific name:	NA
Pest origin:	NA
Pest type:	Abiotic
Host species (Ontario 2025):	NA
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- Drought is a prolonged period of dryness that can affect forest growth and survival.
- Symptoms can include wilted foliage; sparse canopy; and leaf scorch, yellowing, drop, and premature fall colouration.
- Trees weakened by drought have reduced ability to survive insect and disease infestations.
- In 2025, below average precipitation and high temperatures were reported throughout the growing season especially in eastern parts of the Southern Region. The Government of Canada categorized various parts of Ontario as abnormally dry, moderate drought, severe drought, and extreme drought.

Regional summary

Southern

- In Peterborough Bancroft District, moderate to severe drought damage, including discoloured and browning leaves, and premature leaf drop, was widespread and affected various tree species. In Burleigh Falls, foliar drought damage affected basswood, oak, white birch, largetooth aspen, and white pine from Kawartha Park Road to Coon Lake Road. Drought damage was also observed intermittently from Apsley to Bancroft along Hwy 28 affecting maples, aspens, and oaks particularly on hilltops, rocky landscapes, and roadsides. These areas included Jack Lake Road, West Eels Lake Road, and County Road 620. In addition, sugar maples displayed drought symptoms on County Road 507 in Rockcroft. In Hastings County, widespread moderate to severe

drought damage was observed from Paudash to Bancroft affecting hardwood hilltops, south of Marmora on Mulberry Road and Springbrook Road, southeast of Madoc on Jones Road, Quin Mo Lac Road, and Camp Road affecting open-grown white oak, basswood, and white elm in areas surrounding agricultural land. In Kawartha Lakes, moderate to severe drought damage was recorded on the upper slope of a cliff near County Road 30 between Fenelon Falls and Bobcaygeon, off Prospect Road in Kirkfield affecting largetooth aspen, near Cameron Lake affecting ash, and south of Lindsay affecting Norway maple. Moderate drought damage was recorded in Kaladar along Hwy 41 and Hwy 7, and along Hwy 401 from Belleville to Napanee.

- In Kemptville Kingston District, widespread moderate to severe drought damage was observed affecting areas primarily on south and west-facing slopes, especially well drained ridges with stands composed primarily of oak, poplar, pine, and jack pine. Moderate to severe drought damage was observed in multiple locations in Frontenac County including along Hwy 7 from Kaladar to Silver Lake Provincial Park and Hwy 15 north of Kingston. In Lanark County, moderate to severe drought damage was observed in Maberly, Watson's Corners near Patterson Lake, and along Hwy 551 affecting oak, maple, and poplar on ridges and areas with shallow soils. Drought symptoms were also observed intermittently along Hwy 401 from Kingston to Cornwall.
- In Pembroke District, moderate to severe drought damage was observed throughout the southern portion of the district, affecting areas of primarily deciduous hillsides; south and west facing slopes; and oak, pine, or jack pine dominated ridges. Drought damage was observed across multiple species of deciduous trees, shrubs, and understory growth. Foliar symptoms included uniform browning of tips, edges, or entire leaves. In Renfrew County, moderate to severe drought was observed broadly from Combermere to Barry's Bay; and detected at multiple locations between Beachburg, Foresters Falls, Arnprior, and Renfrew.
- In Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge District, severe drought damage was observed on roadside rock outcrops and hilltops on College Drive in Dysart Twp and intermittently along Hwy 21 from Haliburton to Minden. Moderate to severe drought damage affected hardwood trees on hilltops around Gull Lake, Rackety Trail Road, and along Deep Bay Road, all in Lutterworth Twp. Moderate drought damage was observed along ridge tops on Dyno Road in Cardiff Twp and on Gibsons Road in Monmouth Twp, including the area surrounding McCue Lake.

Emerald ash borer

Pest information

Common name:	Emerald ash borer
Scientific name:	*Agrilus planipennis* (Fairmaire)
Pest origin:	Invasive — native to Asia
Pest type:	Wood borer
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Black ash, green ash, white ash
Infestation area:	1938 ha (mortality)

Provincial key facts

- Since it was discovered in Windsor in 2002, emerald ash borer has threatened ash trees in Ontario.
- Since 2002, this insect has spread east to Ottawa and north to Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay.
- This beetle is expected to spread across the entire range of ash, causing widespread mortality in Ontario.
- In 2025, ash mortality and damage caused by emerald ash borer was mapped in Northeast Region and further damage was observed in Southern Region.

Regional summary

Northeast

- In Sault Ste. Marie Blind River District, 1640 ha of ash mortality caused by emerald ash borer were mapped in the southern part of the district during aerial and ground surveys. Most areas of ash mortality were mapped in Plummer, Plummer Additional, Laird, St. Joseph, and Awenge townships, and north of Lake Duborne. White ash mortality was observed throughout an upland forest and smaller areas of black ash mortality located in lowland areas in Havilland Twp. Mortality of white ash in a hardwood stand and an area of black ash were observed in Striker Twp. Sporadic black ash mortality and decline was observed north of Elliot Lake and south of Mather's Lake, on Mile 38 Road in Brule Twp, and Whitman Dam Road in Gaudette Twp. Ash mortality caused by emerald ash borer was not at the stand level in all areas, and environmental factors also contributed to tree decline in Brule and Gaudette townships. In both townships, ash mortality occurred in areas with fluctuating water tables and frost cracks were observed on several trees.

- In Sudbury District, 281 ha of ash mortality caused by emerald ash borer were mapped on Birch Island, north of Manitoulin Island with areas including Geh Teh Miikun, and along Hwy 6 from Whitefish Falls to Birch Island. Severe emerald ash borer damage was observed along Hwy 69 by Bucke Lake in Mowat Twp, Regional Road 15 in Val Caron, and by the Selkirk Connector Trail near the Terry Fox Sports Complex in the City of Sudbury. A small area of moderate emerald ash borer damage was observed along Brennan Harbour Road in Shedden Twp. Ash mortality was also observed on boulevard trees along Regent Street in the City of Sudbury. Signs and symptoms included crown dieback, serpentine galleries, exit holes, and woodpecker damage.
- In North Bay District, moderate to severe emerald ash borer damage and ash mortality was observed on black ash in Kaibuskong Park in the Town of Bonfield. Signs and symptoms included crown dieback, epicormic shoots, exit holes, serpentine galleries, and woodpecker damage.

Southern

- In Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge District, 17 ha of ash mortality caused by emerald ash borer were aerially and ground mapped in ash stands throughout Baxter Twp in Port Severn and Honey Harbour. Emerald ash borer induced mortality was observed in Henvey Twp, Britt, along Hwy 529A in Harrison Twp and in Grundy Lake Provincial Park. Signs and symptoms observed at the site included crown dieback, epicormic shoots, bark blonding, and woodpecker damage. Severe emerald ash borer damage was observed on remaining live ash trees along Toby's Road near Honey Harbour. An emerald ash borer larva was collected along Toby's Road after peeling bark on the tree bole. Severe dieback was observed in ash stands in Grundy Lake Provincial Park, along Hwy 529A, Hwy 529, Hwy 645, and in the town of Britt.
- In Kemptville Kingston District, moderate to severe emerald ash borer damage was recorded during ground surveys at Bon Echo Provincial Park in areas east of Hwy 41 in Frontenac County. Signs and symptoms included tree mortality, D-shaped exit holes, larval galleries, twig dieback, stunted foliage, and epicormic shoots.

Trend analysis/outlook/issues

In collaboration with the Forest Research and Monitoring Section's Seed Archive program, black ash stands in ecoregions 5 and 6 were located, monitored, and assessed for seed development. No sites were identified with live black ash producing viable seeds, resulting in no black ash seed collections in 2025.

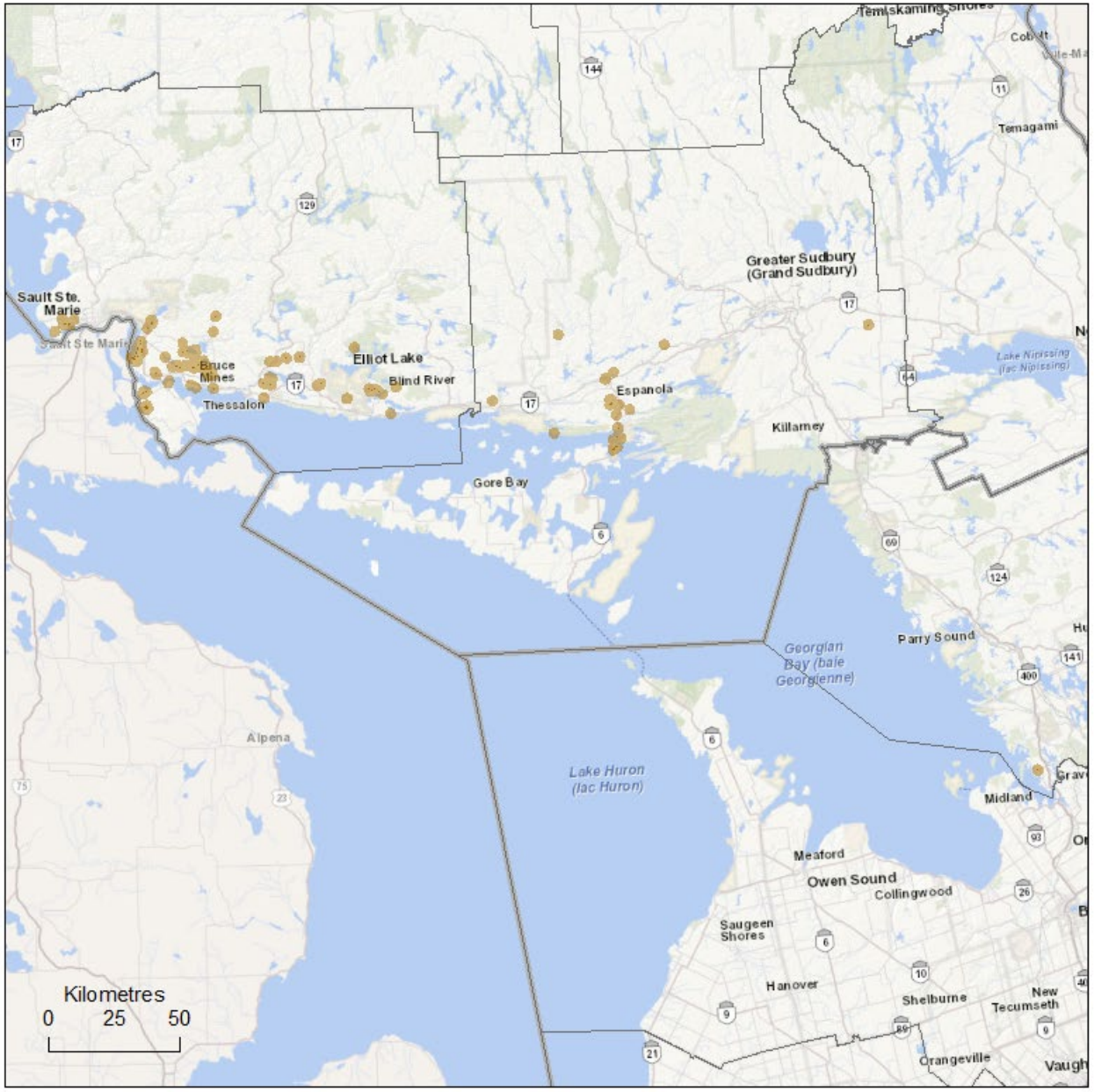
Aerial surveys in parts of Northeast Region were completed in August to delineate and capture the northern extent of ash mortality caused by emerald ash borer in the province. Flight lines traversed across the Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie Blind River districts.

Emerald ash borer 2025

Areas in Ontario where emerald ash borer caused damage

Mortality = 1,938 ha

Area of mortality



Forest tent caterpillar

Pest information

Common name:	Forest tent caterpillar
Scientific name:	*Malacosoma disstria* Hübner
Pest origin:	Native to North America
Pest type:	Defoliator
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Various deciduous species
Infestation area:	131,730 ha (moderate to severe)

Provincial key facts

- On average in Ontario, forest tent caterpillar outbreaks have occurred every ten to twelve years, with each outbreak continuing for three to five years.
- In the south, forest tent caterpillar feeds primarily on sugar maple and oak, and in the north it is found mostly on trembling aspen but also feeds on several other deciduous species.
- In 2025, forest tent caterpillar was aerially mapped and reported in all three regions.

Regional summary

Northwest

- In Nipigon Geraldton District, 15,941 ha of moderate to severe forest tent caterpillar defoliation were aerially mapped from the southeast corner of Lake Nipigon to the town of Geraldton. Most defoliation was mapped north and south of the town of Beardmore and along Hwy 11.
- In Thunder Bay Ignace District, 241 ha of moderate to severe forest tent caterpillar defoliation were aerially mapped north of Hwy 102 between McIntyre River and Current River.
- In Dryden Fort Frances Atikokan District, 236 ha of moderate to severe forest tent caterpillar defoliation were aerially mapped. The defoliation was concentrated in one area northeast of Mine Centre, along Hwy 11 near Grey Trout Road.
- In Red Lake Sioux Lookout District, 43 ha of moderate to severe forest tent caterpillar defoliation were aerially

mapped along Shabumeni Lake, east of Trout Lake. In Balmertown, multiple forest tent caterpillar larvae were found on trembling aspen in mid-June. Larvae were also observed on most trees in high populations on Hwy 599, south of Osnaburgh Reservation.

- In Kenora District, light forest tent caterpillar defoliation was collected on Blindfold Road, south of Rushing River Provincial Park.

Northeast

- In Timmins Kirkland Lake District, 52,003 ha of moderate to severe forest tent caterpillar defoliation were aerially mapped in the southeastern corner of the district. Areas of defoliation were mapped in Engelhart, Charlton, Tomstown, Thornloe, Maybrook, and along Hwy 65 near McCool and Kerns. Other large areas of defoliation were mapped south of Larder Lake, near Englehart River Fine Sand Plain and Waterway Provincial Park, south of Watabeag Lake, and around Sunny Lake. Scattered areas of defoliation occurred along Hwy 66 in Matachewan and Elk Lake.

- In North Bay District, 5,755 ha of moderate to severe forest tent caterpillar defoliation were aerially mapped near New Liskeard, North Cobalt, and Martineau Bay along the shoreline of Lake Temiskaming. Smaller areas were mapped near Sturgeon Falls and Cache Bay.

- In Sudbury District, 4298 ha of moderate to severe forest tent caterpillar defoliation were mapped through aerial and ground surveys. Severe defoliation occurred in several areas of Greater Sudbury, including Maley Drive, Lasalle Boulevard, Elm Street (Regional Road 35) from Maley Drive to Chelmsford, Regional Road 80 from Maley Drive to Guilletville, Montee Rouleau in Azilda, and Regional Road 15 in Boninville. Severe defoliation was collected on O'Neil Drive West in Garson. A trembling aspen stand with severe defoliation was observed on Gagnon Road in Snider Twp. Moderate defoliation was observed along Hwy 85 in Capreol Twp and Falconbridge Road in Garson.

- In Chapleau Wawa District, 249 ha of moderate to severe forest tent caterpillar defoliation were aerially mapped intermittently throughout the district. Mapped areas were in and southeast of Obatanga Provincial Park, in and east of Missinaibi Provincial Park near Shenango Lake, and intermittently along Hwy 101 in the eastern part of the district.

- In Sault Ste. Marie Blind River District, larvae were collected in Havilland and Striker townships, but no defoliation was recorded.

Southern

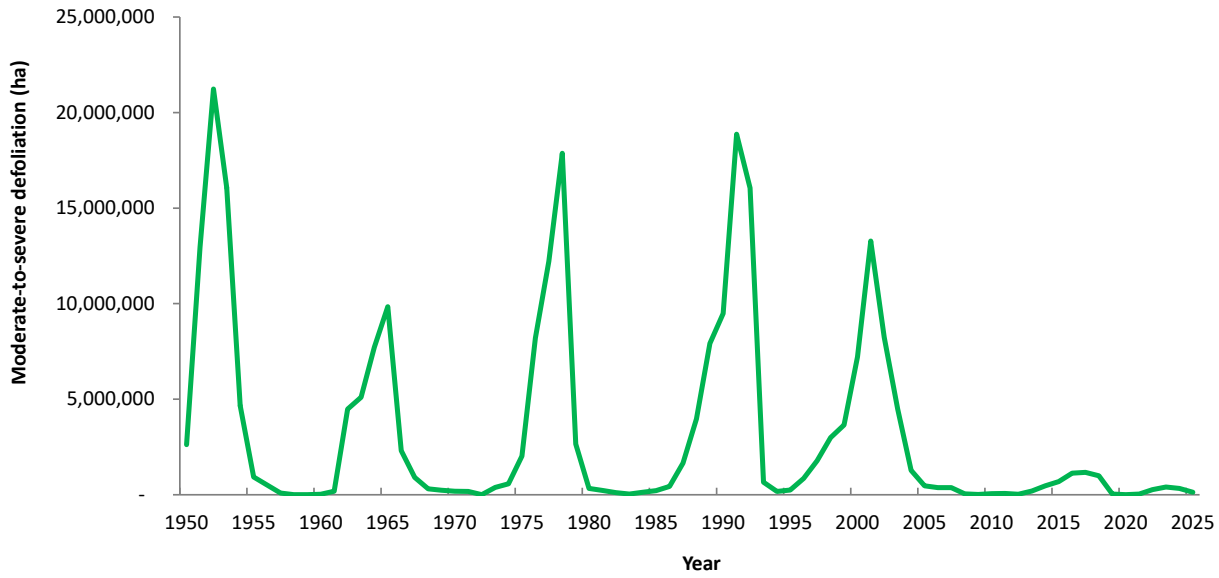
- In Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge District, 52,965 ha of moderate to severe forest tent caterpillar defoliation were aerially mapped. Mapped defoliation was concentrated in the northeast part of the district with large areas of defoliation around South River, Sundridge, Burk's Falls, Emsdale, along Hwy 518 from Emsdale to Orrville, and in Spence, Ryerson, and McMurrich townships. Severe forest tent caterpillar defoliation was observed along Hwy 11 in the Sundridge area and Hwy 124 into Dunchurch. Severe forest tent caterpillar defoliation, affecting sugar maple and trembling aspen, was observed west of Oxtongue Lake in Algonquin Highlands Twp and in McClintock Twp along Hwy 60. Reports were received of severe defoliation along Hwy 518 in McMurrich and Monteith townships and around Sunridge and South River. Moderate defoliation was observed on Nipissing Road South in Spence Twp, affecting many hardwood species and canopy classes.

- In Kemptville Kingston District, light forest tent caterpillar defoliation was collected on Oak Bluffs Road near Crow Lake in South Frontenac Twp, primarily affecting white elm. Trace defoliation was collected in Bon Echo Provincial Park, affecting maple, ash, basswood, and alder species.

- In Aurora Midhurst Owen Sound District, trace forest tent caterpillar defoliation was observed, affecting red oak at Drury Tract in Oro-Medonte Twp, and red oak and American beech at Hendrie Tract in Springwater Twp.

- In Aylmer Guelph District, trace forest tent caterpillar defoliation was recorded on regenerating young red oak trees at Norfolk County Forest #H2 on Old Dump Road near Langton. A small population of larvae were observed during the survey.

- In Peterborough Bancroft District, trace forest tent caterpillar defoliation was observed on red maple and trembling aspen in Churchill Park in Bancroft.



Area (in hectares) of moderate to severe defoliation caused by forest tent caterpillar in Ontario, 1950–2025.

Total area (in hectares) in which forest tent caterpillar caused moderate to severe defoliation in 2020–2025 by MNR district.

Region	Area of damage (ha)				
District	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Northwest					
Dryden Fort Frances Atikokan	0	772	344	289	236
Far North	0	0	0	0	0
Kenora	0	0	0	280	0
Nipigon Geraldton	0	8,586	72,048	26,031	15,941
Red Lake Sioux Lookout	0	24	6	962	43
Thunder Bay Ignace	0	15,106	16,635	845	241
Sub Total	0	24,487	89,032	28,407	16,461
Northeast					
Chapleau Wawa	220	5,142	12,588	30,120	249
Hearst Cochrane Kapuskasing	29,257	132,870	193,810	96,502	0
North Bay	0	0	0	757	5,755
Sault Ste Marie Blind River	0	0	0		0
Sudbury	5,893	7,287	8,370	1,288	4,298
Timmins Kirkland Lake	1,556	91,469	103,388	175,710	52,003
Sub Total	36,926	236,768	318,156	304,377	62,305
Southern					
Aurora Midhurst Owen Sound	0	0	0	0	0
Aylmer Guelph	0	0	0	0	0
Kemptville Kingston	0	0	0	0	0
Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge	0	0	0	112	52,964
Pembroke	0	0	0	0	0
Peterborough Bancroft	0	0	0	0	0
Sub Total	0	0	0	112	52,964
Provincial Total	36,926	261,255	407,188	332,896	131,730

Forest tent caterpillar 2025

Areas in Ontario where forest tent caterpillar caused defoliation

Moderate to severe = 131,730 ha

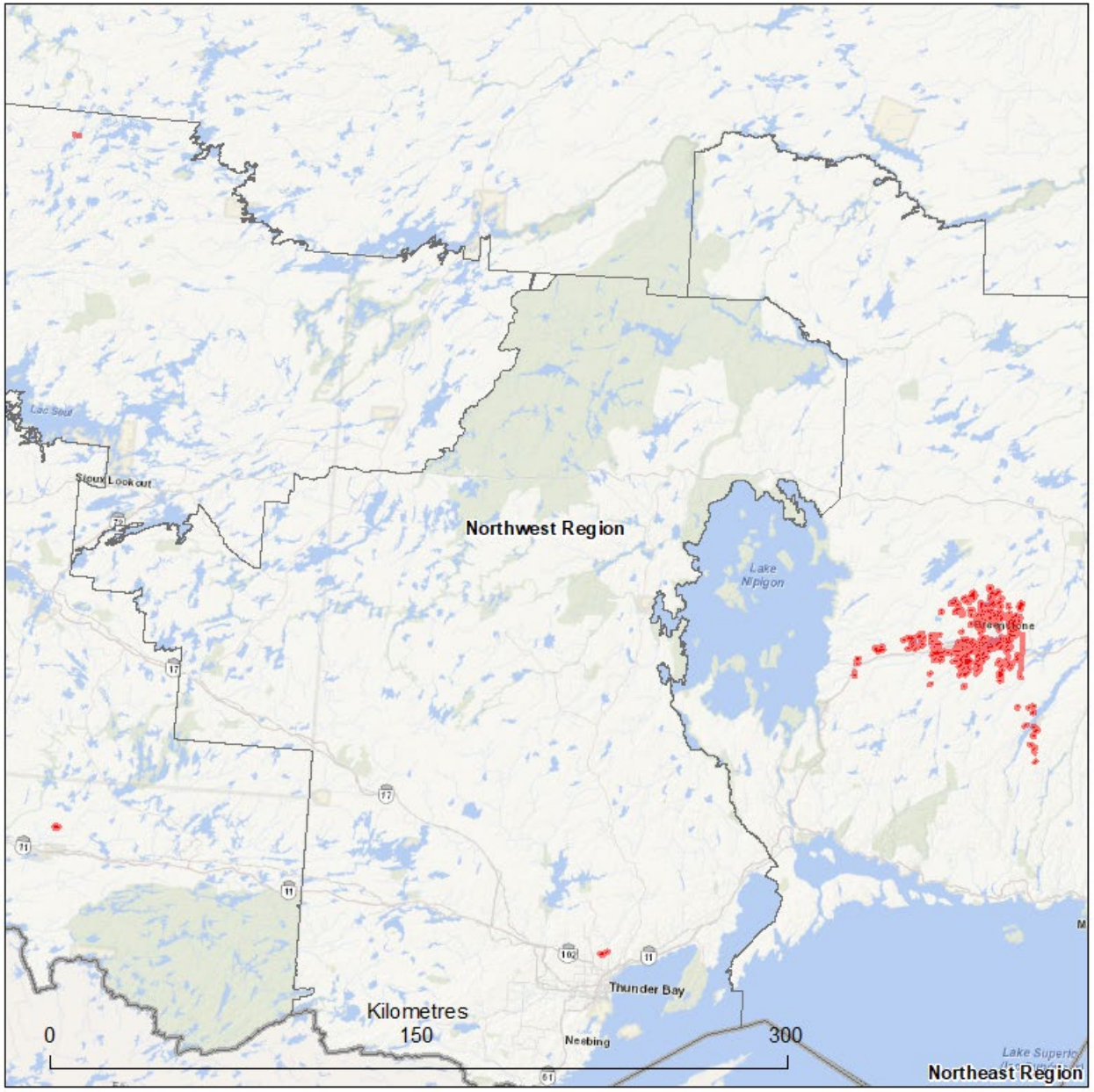
Area of moderate to severe defoliation

Forest tent caterpillar 2025

Areas in Northwest Region where forest tent caterpillar caused defoliation

Moderate to severe = 16,461 ha

Area of moderate to severe defoliation

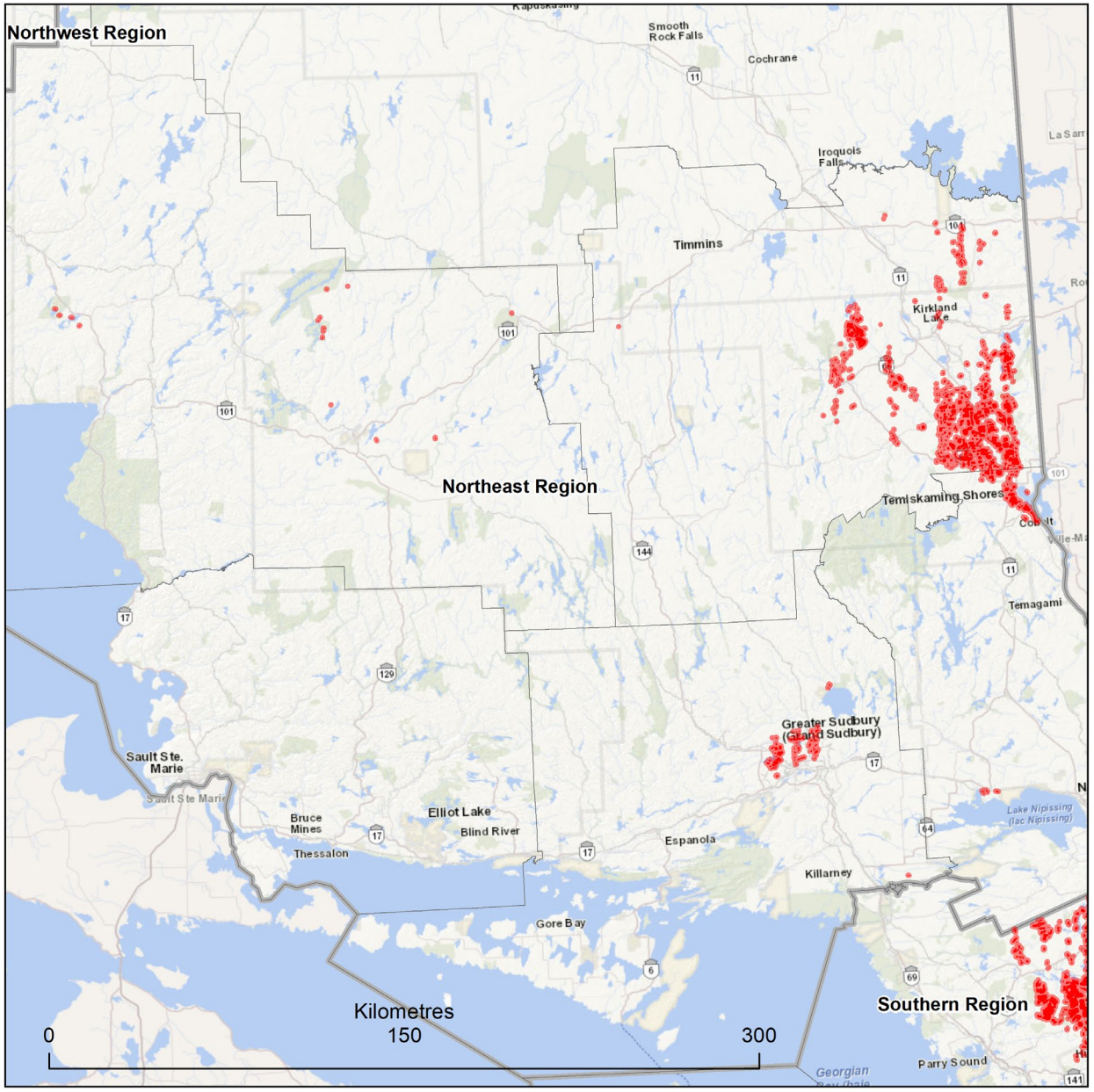


Forest tent caterpillar 2025

Areas in Northeast Region where forest tent caterpillar caused defoliation

Moderate to severe = 62,305 ha

Area of moderate to severe defoliation

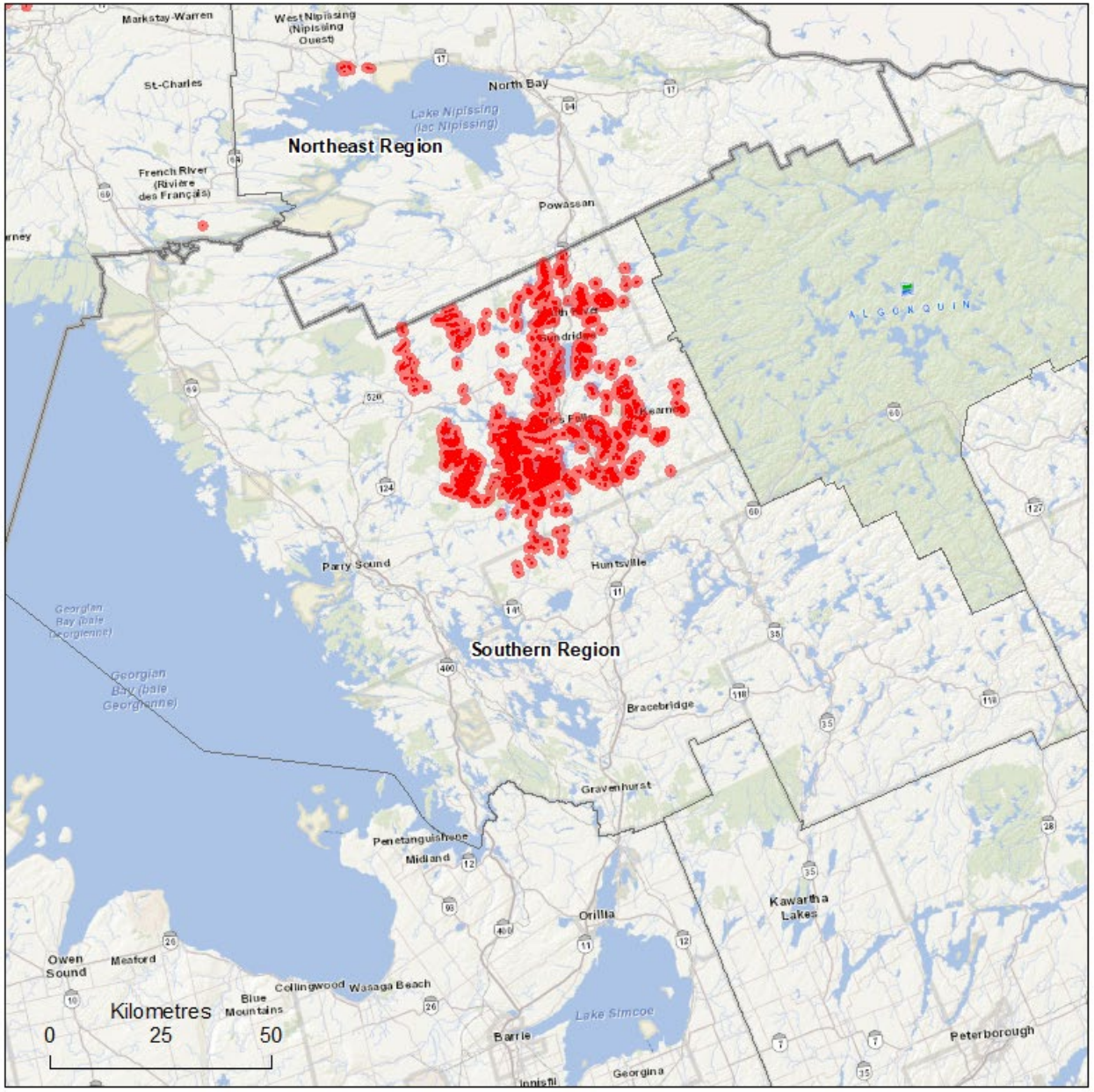


Forest tent caterpillar 2025

Areas in Southern Region where forest tent caterpillar caused defoliation

Moderate to severe = 52,965 ha

Area of moderate to severe defoliation



Hail

Pest information

Common name:	Hail
Scientific name:	NA
Pest origin:	NA
Pest type:	Abiotic
Host species (Ontario 2025):	NA
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- Hail occasionally causes severe damage to trees, ranging from damaged bark and foliage to whole tree mortality.
- Hailstones can rip and shred foliage and tear away smaller branches.
- Depending on its size, hail can damage a tree's underlying vascular tissues and tear bark on the upper surface of branches and the windward side of the main trunk, affecting the tree's ability to move water and nutrients from roots to limbs, twigs, and foliage. Wounds from branch tearing and bark damage often become entry sites for insects and diseases.
- In 2025, hail damage was reported in Southern Region.

Regional summary

Southern

- In Pembroke District, small, localized areas of severe hail damage were observed along Zion Line Road near Beachburg. The damage was recorded after a thunderstorm in late May that produced hail which affected deciduous tree and shrub species of all age classes. West-facing sides of trees were most severely affected with defoliation, lesions along stems, and damaged branches. No visible damage was observed on nearby conifer trees.

Hemlock woolly adelgid

Pest information

Common name:	Hemlock woolly adelgid
Scientific name:	*Adelges tsugae* (Annand)
Pest origin:	Invasive — native to Asia
Pest type:	Sap-sucking insect
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Eastern hemlock
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- In Canada, introduced populations of hemlock woolly adelgid are established in Nova Scotia and Ontario. Endemic populations of hemlock woolly adelgid are also found in British Columbia.
- In Ontario, hemlock woolly adelgid was first found in Etobicoke, near Toronto, in 2012 on five ornamental trees. In 2013, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) detected an infestation during pest-specific surveys in the Niagara Gorge near Niagara Falls. The pest was again detected by the CFIA during surveys in 2019 in the Niagara Gorge and in a forested area near Wainfleet, Niagara Region. CFIA confirmed the presence of hemlock woolly adelgid in Fort Erie, also in Niagara Region in 2021, in the town of Pelham (Niagara Region) and Grafton in Northumberland County in 2022. In 2023, the CFIA confirmed three detections in Haldimand County, Hamilton, and Lincoln in the Niagara Region, then in 2024, detections were made in Port Colborne and Thorold.
- The insect has two generations per year in Canada, and is dispersed naturally by wind, birds, and mammals. It can also be spread by human movement of nursery stock and other wood products such as firewood.
- Feeding damage causes branch, twig, bud, and shoot dieback and leads to premature needle loss and eventual tree mortality.
- In 2025, the CFIA confirmed the presence of hemlock woolly adelgid in three new locations in Southern Region.

Regional summary

Southern

- In 2025, the CFIA confirmed new detections of hemlock woolly adelgid in the Greater Toronto Area, St. Catharines (Niagara Region), and in Norfolk County.
- The CFIA expanded the area regulated for hemlock woolly adelgid in Ontario due to detections made outside of the previously regulated area. The new regulated area includes the Regional Municipality of Niagara, Haldimand County, the City of Hamilton, and the Township of Alnwick/Haldimand.

Trend analysis/outlook/issues

MNR forest health field staff have been trained in survey protocols and procedures for detecting hemlock woolly adelgid. The ministry will continue to collaborate with federal partners in both the CFIA and Natural Resources Canada to support related survey and scientific initiatives.

Ice damage

Pest information

Common name:	Ice damage
Scientific name:	NA
Pest origin:	NA
Pest type:	Abiotic
Host species (Ontario 2025):	NA
Infestation area:	3394 ha (moderate to severe), 55 ha (light)

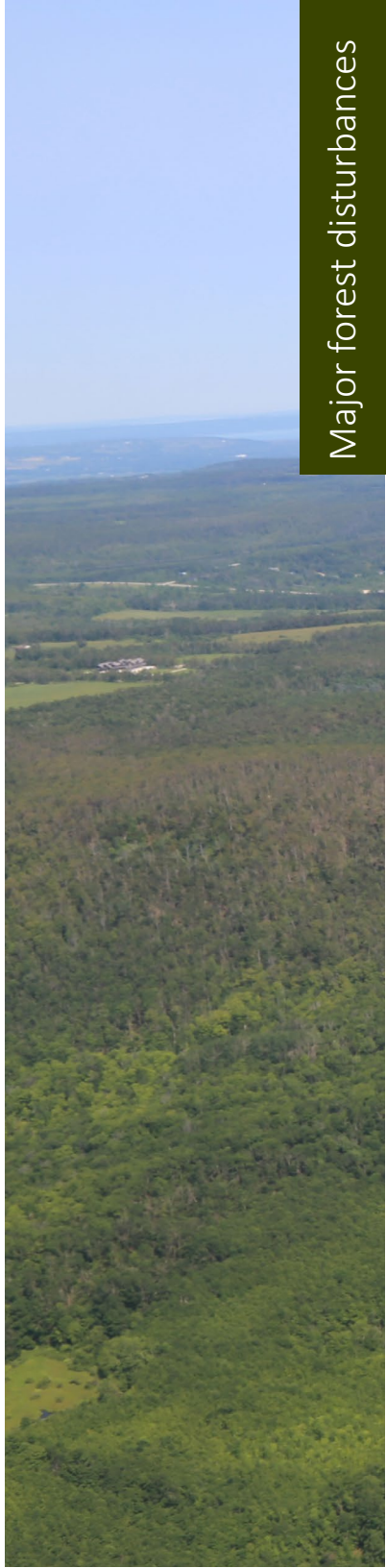
Provincial key facts

- Ice damage, which is any damage to trees from freezing rain or extreme cold weather events, is part of natural forest processes. The frequency of these events continues to be sporadic, and damage is highly variable in extent and severity.
- An ice storm lasting multiple days swept across parts of Southern Ontario at the end of March that produced freezing rain and ice accretion over 30 mm in some areas. Damage caused by the event was mapped during ground and aerial surveys. The severity of damage ranged from light to severe and the extent included branch and crown breakage, snapped tops, and bent trees. Red pine plantations were commonly observed with severely bent and snapped trees, and deciduous species such as maple, oak, white birch, and poplar had varied severities of crown breakage and tree bending and snapping.
- In 2025, ice damage from the late March ice storm event was mapped in Southern Region.

Regional summary

Southern

- In Aurora Midhurst Owen Sound District, 2616 ha of moderate to severe and 7 ha of light ice damage were mapped. Most damage was reported across Simcoe County and Grey County. In Simcoe County, large areas of moderate to severe ice damage were mapped near Hwy 43 in Midhurst, between Hwy 400 and Hwy 11 near Oro, west of Hwy 400 along Hwy 19, and near Coldwater. Red pine was observed with snapped or bent stems, and sugar maple stands with severe broken branches. In Grey County, several large areas of damage were



mapped south of Craigleith, including areas in Blue Mountains and Pretty River Valley Provincial Park. Smaller areas of ice damage were mapped during aerial and ground surveys using point and line data. In Grey County, moderate to severe ice damage affecting deciduous and coniferous species was scattered between Blue Mountains to Hwy 9 near Wareham and Badjeros. In Dufferin County, moderate to severe ice damage was recorded in the northern section extending from Hwy 9, through Redickville to Honeywood, and Lavender. In Simcoe County, moderate to severe ice damage was observed in deciduous stands of higher elevation along the Niagara Escarpment from Collingwood to Dunedin. Small, scattered areas of ice damage on roadside and forest edge deciduous trees were also recorded from Barrie to Coldwater and along Hwy 11 to Washago. Light ice damage was reported using point data in Grey County and Simcoe County in areas near Thornbury, Wasaga Beach, Midhurst, Tiny Twp, and Severn Twp where trees had minor bending, fine branch breakage, or fewer occurrences in stands.

- In Peterborough Bancroft District, 777 ha of moderate to severe and 49 ha of light ice damage were mapped. Damage was widespread with the most affected areas recorded in Kawartha Lakes and Peterborough County. Larger areas of moderate to severe damage were mapped between Oakwood and Bolsover, and from Bolsover to Coboconk. Affected species included cedar, poplar, aspen, soft maple, and birch. Ice damage was also mapped near Bridgenorth, Lakehurst, and Buckhorn, affecting red pine plantations and hardwood species like red oak, largetooth aspen, and sugar maple. Red pine stands with moderate to severe bent and snapped trees were mapped between Franklin and Mount Pleasant in Peterborough County. Smaller extents of moderate to severe ice damage were mapped using point and line data during aerial and ground surveys. Deciduous and coniferous species were affected throughout Kawartha Lakes, observed and mapped from Sebright to Lake Scugog, from Norland to Lindsay, Janetville to Peterborough, and areas surrounding Sturgeon Lake. Damaged trees were more commonly observed along roadsides, forest edges, hydro line corridors, in conifer plantations, and deciduous swamps . In Peterborough County, moderate to severe ice damage was recorded throughout Douro-Dummer Twp, around Sturgeon, Pigeon, Chemong, Buckhorn, and Lower Buckhorn Lakes, and scattered in Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park, North Kawartha Twp, and Havelock-Belmont-Methuen Twp. In Northumberland County, moderate to severe ice damage was recorded south of Rice Lake in Roseneath, and south of the Trent River between Hastings and Campbellford. In Hastings County, moderate to severe ice damage was recorded near Ivanhoe and Cordova Mines.
- In Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge District , light to moderate ice damage was observed during ground surveys in the southern half of the district in Muskoka, Parry Sound, and Haliburton County. Damage was reported affecting eastern white pine, red pine, red maple, sugar maple, white birch, trembling aspen, and poplar species and observed intermittently along Hwy 400 from Lake Joseph to Six Mile Lake, near Hwy 124 north of Parry Sound, in areas from Huntsville to Severn Bridge, and along Hwy 118 East from Muskoka Falls to Hindon Hill. Light ice damage was recorded sporadically from Rosseau to Bala along Hwy 169, Hwy 7, and Hwy 632, in addition to scattered areas where moderate ice damage also occurred.

Trend analysis/outlook/issues

Extreme weather events, like ice storms, can have major impacts on forest ecosystems and play a role in natural forest succession.

Ice damage to individual trees and forests can be variable and range from minor to severe. The most common impacts include branch breakage and stem bending, with more severe impacts involving trunk splitting, major branch breakage, or complete uprooting. A loss of foliage due to broken branches, the weakening of the trunk, or damage to the root system can impact the ability of a damaged tree to grow. These impacts can lead to increased susceptibility and vulnerability to insects, diseases, and future abiotic events. It is common to find increased presence of secondary insect and diseases in years following an ice storm.

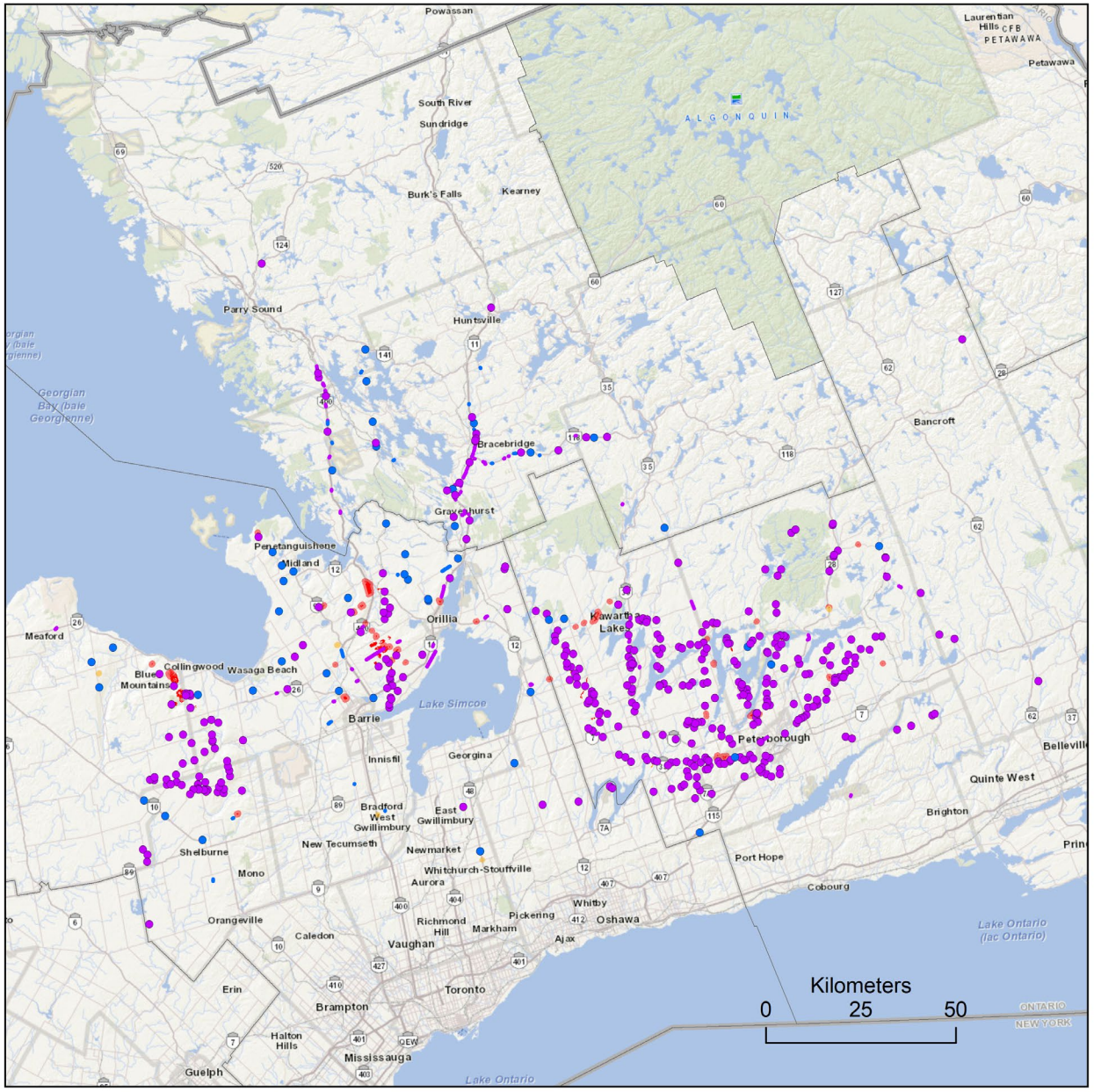
Forest and tree recovery after an ice storm event varies by tree species, stand composition, and forest age. These factors can determine tree survival and forest resilience in the aftermath of a storm.

Climate change is expected to increase the frequency and intensity of ice storms in Ontario and will likely continue to pose ongoing challenges for forest health and management.

Ice Damage 2025

Areas in Ontario where ice caused damage

- Light damage observation point
- Moderate to severe damage observation point
- Light damage along roadway
- Moderate to severe damage along roadway
- Area of light damage
- Area of moderate to severe damage



Jack pine budworm

Pest information

Common name:	Jack pine budworm
Scientific name:	*Choristoneura pinus pinus* Freeman
Pest origin:	Native to North America
Pest type:	Defoliator
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Jack pine
Infestation area:	1082 ha (moderate to severe), 217 ha (light), 8671 ha (mortality)

Provincial key facts

- Jack pine budworm outbreaks occur in Ontario about every eight to ten years.
- In Ontario, broad-scale control programs have been undertaken to protect high value jack pine stands during an outbreak, with the most recent one carried out in 2021 in Northwest Region.
- For the sixth consecutive year, the area of moderate to severe jack pine budworm defoliation has decreased in Ontario.
- In 2025, jack pine budworm was reported in all three regions.

Regional summary

Northwest

- In Red Lake Sioux Lookout District, 1029 ha of moderate to severe defoliation were aerially mapped including a large area in Pakwash Provincial Park, south of Primok Lake, a small area on the northwest end of Little Trout Lake and scattered along the shoreline of Trout Lake with most of the defoliation mapped on the west side of Trout Lake. Another 217 ha of light defoliation were aerially mapped on the southwest shoreline of Johnson's Bay on Trout Lake and 6908 ha of mortality throughout the district, including the north and southwest ends of Pakwash Provincial Park, Wenasaga Lake Landing Road, Wenasaga South Lake Road, and east of Ten Mile Creek. An abundance of mortality was mapped near water bodies including areas east of Primok Lake, the west end of Little Trout Lake, along the southwest shoreline of Coli Lake, and on an unnamed island in the middle of Coli Lake. A large concentration of mortality was also mapped around Trout Lake including the shoreline of the west end, throughout Cat Island, scattered throughout unnamed islands on the eastern side of Trout Lake, and two

large areas southeast of Caskie Bay in Trout Lake.

- In Kenora District, 37 ha of moderate to severe jack pine budworm defoliation were aerially mapped on the southwest end of Pakwash Lake, north of Cabin Bay. Light jack pine budworm defoliation was observed on Hwy 71 in Work Twp, near Graphic Lake. In Umbach, Pellatt, Jackman, and Coyle townships, 1763 ha of jack pine budworm mortality were mapped. Areas of mortality were mapped west of War Eagle Lake, on islands located in Little Sand Lake, Wonderland Lake, North Wreck Lake, Clay Lake, west of Segise Lake, Bridge Lake, northwest of Oak Lake, north of Wegg Lake, and on the southwest end of Pakwash Lake scattered around Cabin Bay.

- In Dryden Atikokan Fort Frances District, moderate defoliation caused by jack pine budworm was observed on an open grown jack pine at Jackfish Lake rest stop in Satterly Twp and on several young jack pine on Lens Road off Glider Lake Road.

- In Nipigon Geralton District, jack pine budworm larvae were found defoliating jack pine saplings on Catlonite Road.

Northeast

- In Chapleau Wawa District, 16 ha of moderate to severe jack pine budworm defoliation were aerially mapped south of Kwinkwaga Ground Moraine Uplands Conservation Reserve in McCron and Cecile townships, and along Hwy 17. Moderate jack pine budworm defoliation was observed north of White River, along Road 50, and off Road 150. Light to moderate defoliation was observed west of White River, in Kwinkwaga Ground Moraine Uplands Conservation Reserve.

- In Sudbury District, light jack pine budworm defoliation was observed along Hwy 144 in Cartier Twp and Munster Road in Munster Twp.

- In Sault Ste. Marie Blind River District, trace jack pine budworm defoliation was recorded at a pheromone trapping location in Wells Twp. Larvae were collected from jack pine flowers in May and no further defoliation was observed.

Southern

- In Pembroke District, moderate levels of jack pine budworm defoliation were observed near Bonnechere Provincial Park during early season ground surveys in Renfrew County. Trace populations and defoliation were detected at Jack Pine Park in Petawawa.

- In Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge District, light jack pine budworm defoliation was observed along Nares Inlet Road in Harrison Twp.

Trend analysis/outlook/issues

Jack pine forest health plots

In the mid-1990s, plots were established in jack pine stands in the northern regions to monitor the effects of jack pine budworm and the overall health of jack pine forests across northern Ontario.

Although jack pine health plots are assessed on an annual basis, full plot remeasurements (diameter at breast height and tree height) are scheduled every 5 years. In 2024, jack pine health plots were remeasured, with the next remeasurement scheduled for 2029. The jack pine stands across Northwest and Northeast regions vary in maturity classes resulting in widespread diameter and height ranges between stands. In Northwest Region, 48 plots were assessed with an average DBH of 20.0 cm and average height of 16.5 m. Average recorded diameter ranged from 10.7 cm to 31.1 cm. Average height in Northwest Region ranged from 10.6 m to 24.0 m. Average height in Northeast Region ranged from 10.9 m to 25.0 m.

In Northeast Region, 42 plots were assessed with an average diameter at breast height (DBH) of 20.2 cm and average height of 19.0 m. Average recorded diameter ranged from 11.7 cm to 31.5 cm. In 2025, 1884 jack pine trees were assessed across 84 plots, 47 in Northwest Region and 37 in Northeast. Trees were surveyed for any pest, disease, or abiotic factors that affect health/condition and the abundance of male flowers.

In Northwest Region, 86 trees in jack pine plots were reported as recently dead. Mortality was caused by various abiotic factors and pests. The remainder of the mortality was a result of armillaria (20%), tree boring insects (16%), and blowdown (13%) . White spotted sawyer beetles caused 5% and root decay was responsible for 3%, while bark beetles caused 1%. The causal agent for the remaining 42% of mortality was not determined.

In Northeast Region, 99 trees in jack pine plots were reported as recently dead. Most (64%) of this mortality was attributed to tree cutting, while 25% was caused by armillaria. The remainder of the morality was a result of blowdown (13%), ice/snow (2%), white spotted sawyer beetle (2%), and stem decay (1%).

The abundance of male flowers varied between the Northwest and Northeast regions. In Northwest Region, 62% of surveyed live trees had low numbers of male flowers, 27% had moderate numbers, 9% had high numbers, while the remaining 2% had none.

In Northeast Region, 66% of the surveyed live trees had high numbers of male flowers, 26% had moderate numbers, and 8% had low numbers. Less than one percent of trees assessed had no flowers.

In Northwest Region, jack pine budworm was not observed defoliating the trees in the forest health plots. In Northeast Region, jack pine budworm caused defoliation on <1% of trees in the forest health plots.

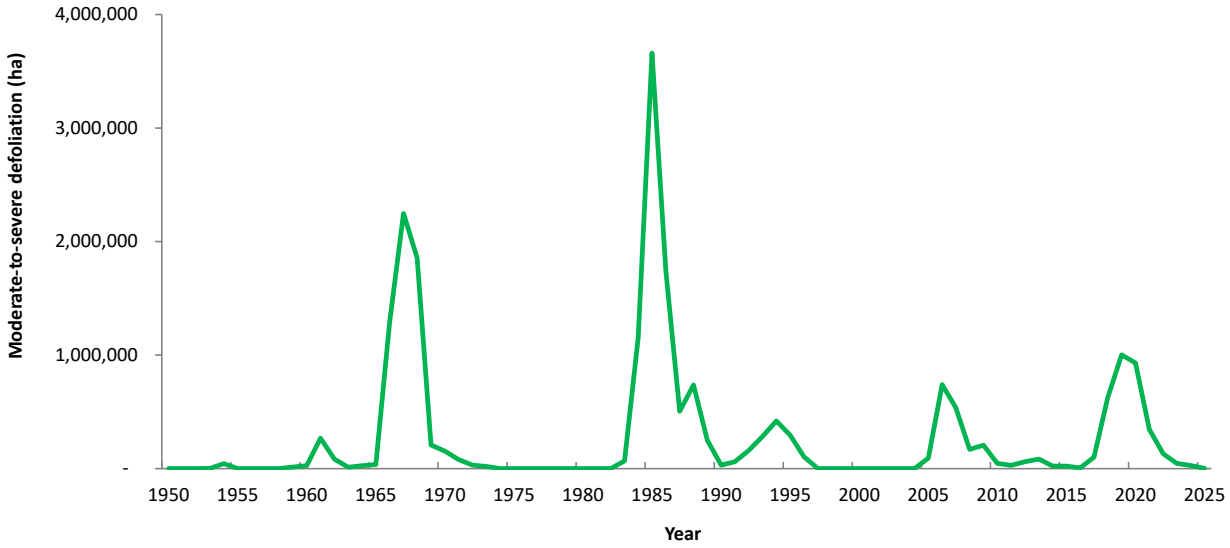
Jack pine budworm pheromone trapping

Jack pine budworm pheromone trapping was completed across the province in 2025. Traps were deployed at 74 locations: 36 in Northwest, 32 in Northeast, and 9 in Southern Region.

In Northwest Region, the average number of male moths per trap was <1. The highest trap count was in Dryden Atikokan Fort Frances District with an average of 3 male moths per trap.

In Northeast Region, the average number of male moths per trap was <1. A trap in Sudbury District had the greatest average number of moths per trap, with 4 male moths per trap.

In Southern Region, an average of 1 male moth per trap was recorded. The highest average number was at a trap in Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge District with 3 male moths per trap.



Area (in hectares) of moderate to severe defoliation caused by jack pine budworm in Ontario, 1950–2025.

Total area (in hectares) in which jack pine budworm caused moderate to severe defoliation from 2021 to 2025, by MNR district.

Region	Area of damage (ha)				
District	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Northwest					
Dryden Fort Frances Atikokan	31,256	23,865	2,183	1,230	0
Far North	11,247	38	1	689	0
Kenora	52,726	2,242	18,057	9,867	37
Nipigon Geraldton	36,064	40,213	20	0	0
Red Lake Sioux Lookout	43,224	7,617	11,504	7,947	1,030
Thunder Bay Ignace	171,613	46,619	664	0	0
Sub Total	346,129	120,593	32,429	19,733	1,067
Northeast					
Chapleau Wawa	0	610	12,865	6,403	15
Hearst Cochrane Kapuskasing	0	9,470	0	0	0
North Bay	0	0	0	0	0
Sault Ste Marie Blind River	0	0	0	0	0
Sudbury	137	0	0	0	0
Timmins Kirkland Lake	0	0	0	0	0
Sub Total	137	10,081	12,865	6,403	15
Southern					
Aurora Midhurst Owen Sound	0	0	0	0	0
Aylmer Guelph	0	0	0	0	0
Kemptville Kingston	0	0	0	0	0
Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge	0	0	0	0	0
Pembroke	0	0	0	0	0
Peterborough Bancroft	0	0	0	0	0
Sub Total	0	0	0	0	0
Provincial Total	346,266	130,674	45,294	26,136	1,082

Jack pine budworm 2025

Areas in Ontario where jack pine budworm caused defoliation

Light = 217 ha
Moderate to severe = 1,082 ha
Mortality = 8,671 ha

- Area of light defoliation
- Area of moderate to severe defoliation
- Area of mortality

Jack pine budworm 2025

Areas in Northwest Region where jack pine budworm caused defoliation

Light = 217 ha
Moderate to severe = 1,067 ha
Mortality = 8,671 ha

- Area of light defoliation
- Area of moderate to severe defoliation
- Area of mortality

Jack pine budworm 2025

Areas in Northeast Region where jack pine budworm caused defoliation

Moderate to severe = 16 ha

Area of moderate to severe defoliation

Jack pine budworm pheromone trapping results 2025

Average number of moths per trap

- 0
- < 10

Larch casebearer

Pest information

Common name:	Larch casebearer
Scientific name:	*Coleophora laricella* (Hübner)
Pest origin:	Invasive — native to Europe
Pest type:	Defoliator
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Tamarack, European larch
Infestation area:	877 ha (moderate to severe)

Provincial key facts

- Larch casebearer was introduced to North America in Massachusetts in 1886 and was detected in Ontario in 1905. This pest is now found across the range of tamarack and throughout European larch plantations in Ontario.
- Larch casebearer is a serious defoliator of tamarack. Trees may be killed if they have been completely defoliated for two or more years.
- In 2025, areas of defoliation were observed during ground and aerial surveys in Northeast and Southern regions.

Regional summary

Northeast

- In North Bay District, scattered areas of light to moderate larch casebearer defoliation were observed on Ranger Road and Sand Dam Road just north of the City of North Bay.
- In Sudbury District, light larch casebearer defoliation was observed on Estaire Road in Burwash Twp.

Southern

- In Aurora Midhurst Owen Sound District, 669 ha of moderate to severe larch casebearer defoliation were mapped during aerial surveys. In Grey County, scattered areas of moderate to severe larch casebearer defoliation affecting tamarack were mapped around Lamlash in the municipality of West Grey. In the municipality of Grey Highlands, an area of moderate to severe defoliation affecting tamarack was mapped north of Wareham, along Road 41A. Small areas of moderate to severe defoliation affecting tamarack were mapped

between Glen Huron and Dunedin in Clearview Twp, and at Zephyr Creek Wetlands in Georgina. In Bruce County, an area of moderate to severe larch casebearer defoliation affecting tamarack was mapped along Hwy 13 between Southampton and Sauble Beach. During ground surveys, moderate defoliation was reported east of Whitechurch along Turnberry Culross Road W and Huron Bruce Road in the municipality of South Bruce. In Bruce County, moderate defoliation was recorded along Huron Road south of Howdenvale, and several areas along Hwy 6; west of Berford Lake, between Lawrence Road and Limberlost Road, and between Wiarton and Clavering.

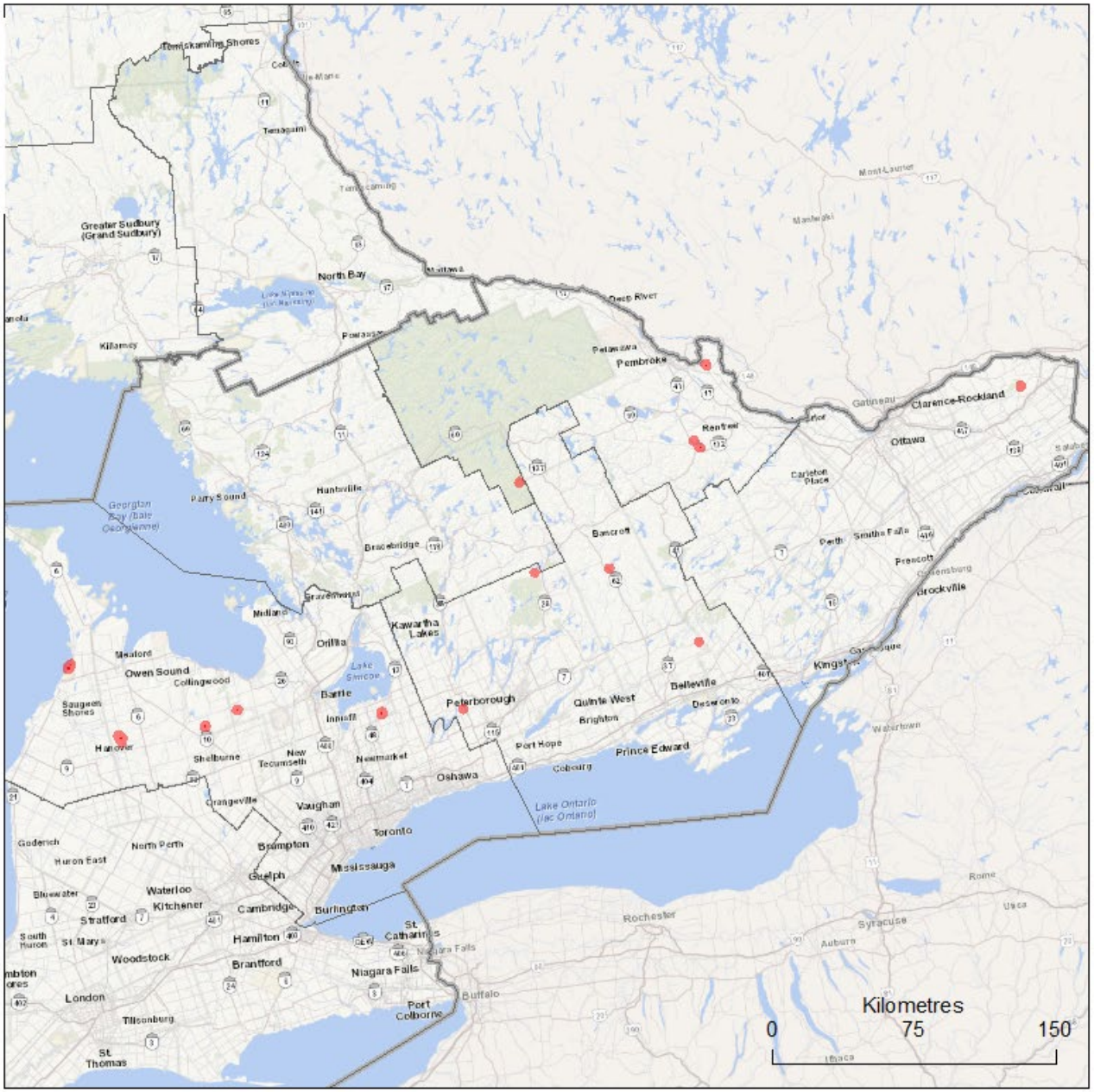
- In Pembroke District, 133 ha of moderate to severe larch casebearer defoliation were mapped during aerial surveys. In Renfrew County, two small areas of moderate to severe defoliation were mapped in Bonnechere Valley Twp; one area was mapped along Constant Lake Road at Dellaires Lake, and the other west of Fiebig Road near Dacre. In Algonquin Provincial Park, a small area of moderate to severe larch casebearer defoliation was aerially mapped near Little Branch Lake, in the southern panhandle. During ground surveys, two small areas of moderate to severe defoliation of mature tamarack were recorded at Westmeath Bog Conservation Reserve near the town of Westmeath in Whitewater Region. Defoliation was recorded for the second consecutive year in this area.
- In Peterborough Bancroft District, 47 ha of moderate to severe larch casebearer defoliation were mapped during aerial surveys near Goose Creek north of Marlbank, along East Cross Creek north of Janetville, along Bass Creek east of Hwy 62 near Martins Landing, and near Higgins Lake in North Kawartha Twp. Moderate defoliation was observed on tamaracks off Century Farm Road in Kawartha Lakes, and along Hwy 62 in Millbridge, Hastings County.
- In Kemptville Kingston District, 28 ha of moderate to severe larch casebearer defoliation were aerially mapped. In Prescott and Russell United Counties, defoliation was mapped outside the east boundary of Alfred Bog Provincial Park affecting tamarack. During ground surveys, moderate larch casebearer defoliation was recorded on semi-mature tamarack near Mountain Grove Road in Central Frontenac Twp.
- In Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge District, light larch casebearer defoliation was observed along Forestry Road in Trout Creek.

Larch casebearer 2025

Areas in Ontario where larch casebearer caused defoliation

Moderate to severe = 877 ha

Area of moderate to severe defoliation



Oak wilt

Pest information

Common name:	Oak wilt
Scientific name:	*Bretziella fagacearum* (Bretz)
Pest origin:	Invasive — unknown
Pest type:	Vascular wilt
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Oak species
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- Oak wilt is a disease caused by an invasive forest pathogen, named *Bretziella fagacearum*. Locally, the disease is spread by insect vectors such as sap beetles (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae) and root grafting. Long distance movement is often the result of people moving oak wilt infected wood.
- Oak wilt poses a risk to all oak species in eastern Canada, especially red oak (Quercus section Lobatae).
- Sweet smelling, fungal pressure pads develop on stems and large branches of newly killed trees and cause the bark to crack. Nitidulid beetles crawl through the cracks to feed on the fungus. New oak wilt infections occur when the beetles transfer fungal spores on their bodies from the infected trees to fresh wounds on uninfected oak trees. Oak wilt pockets develop when the fungus spreads through root grafts from infected to nearby uninfected trees.
- Of the hundreds of species of nitidulid beetles, only a subset has behaviours (flight timing, host preference) that result in oak wilt transmission. Current species of interest are *Carpophilus sayi* and *Colopterus truncatus*, since they are known vectors for oak wilt in the United States.
- Current efforts are focused on early detection and prevention of oak wilt establishment by developing best management practices and pruning guidelines.
- The risk of new oak wilt infections occurring can be greatly reduced by not wounding oak trees during the growing season.
- In June 2023, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) confirmed the first detections of oak wilt in Canada in the City of Niagara Falls, Springwater Twp, and the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake in southern Ontario.

Regional summary

- In 2025, no new oak wilt occurrences were confirmed in Ontario according to the CFIA.

Trend analysis/outlook/issues

In 2021, results from a three-year study in Ontario, New Brunswick, and Manitoba showed that oaks in central and eastern Canada were most at risk of oak wilt infection between April and end of July. This determination was made using the flight patterns of the two most common beetle vectors.

In 2022, oak trees were wounded at five locations in Sault Ste. Marie on a weekly basis between April and August to determine when beetles were attracted to oak wounds. This work revealed that beetles rarely visited wounds in April and May and was repeated by collaborators in New Brunswick, Manitoba, and Michigan, which showed similar results.

A two-year study was completed in 2024 to investigate the risk of oak wilt infection of trees by beetles prior to bud break. Oak trees were wounded in southern and northern Ontario and New Brunswick before, during, and after bud break. This work showed that nitidulid beetles rarely visit fresh oak wounds prior to bud break even though they have been active for several weeks. This finding suggests the risk of oak wilt infections is low prior to bud break. The reason why this occurs is unknown. Changes in tree physiology at bud break could be responsible for beetle visits to wounds after bud break or beetle behaviour could be changing in response to the consistently warm temperatures observed at that time of year.

In 2024 and 2025, eight locations with red oak, had a series of Lindgren funnel traps deployed and were baited with lures to attract oak wilt vector beetles. An additional lure that mimics the smell of stressed trees was added to half the traps to attract other beetles. The goal of the project was to determine if environmental DNA monitoring for the oak wilt pathogen on beetle vectors could be combined with monitoring for other beetles without compromising results.

- Technicians counted beetles to see if the additional lure repelled two important beetle species known to carry the oak wilt pathogen and found it did not. Another analysis will be run next to determine if the additional lure attracted other important beetles.
- They also tested if the pathogen DNA was present in the samples and if so, how much. Samples collected in June 2024 and 2025 were also tested to determine if DNA of the pathogen that causes oak wilt was present on beetles. Trace amounts of pathogen DNA were detected infrequently at six trap locations over a two-year period, with some locations having detection both years. In 2024, trace pathogen DNA in traps were located at Nipissing Road South in Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge District , Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Area in

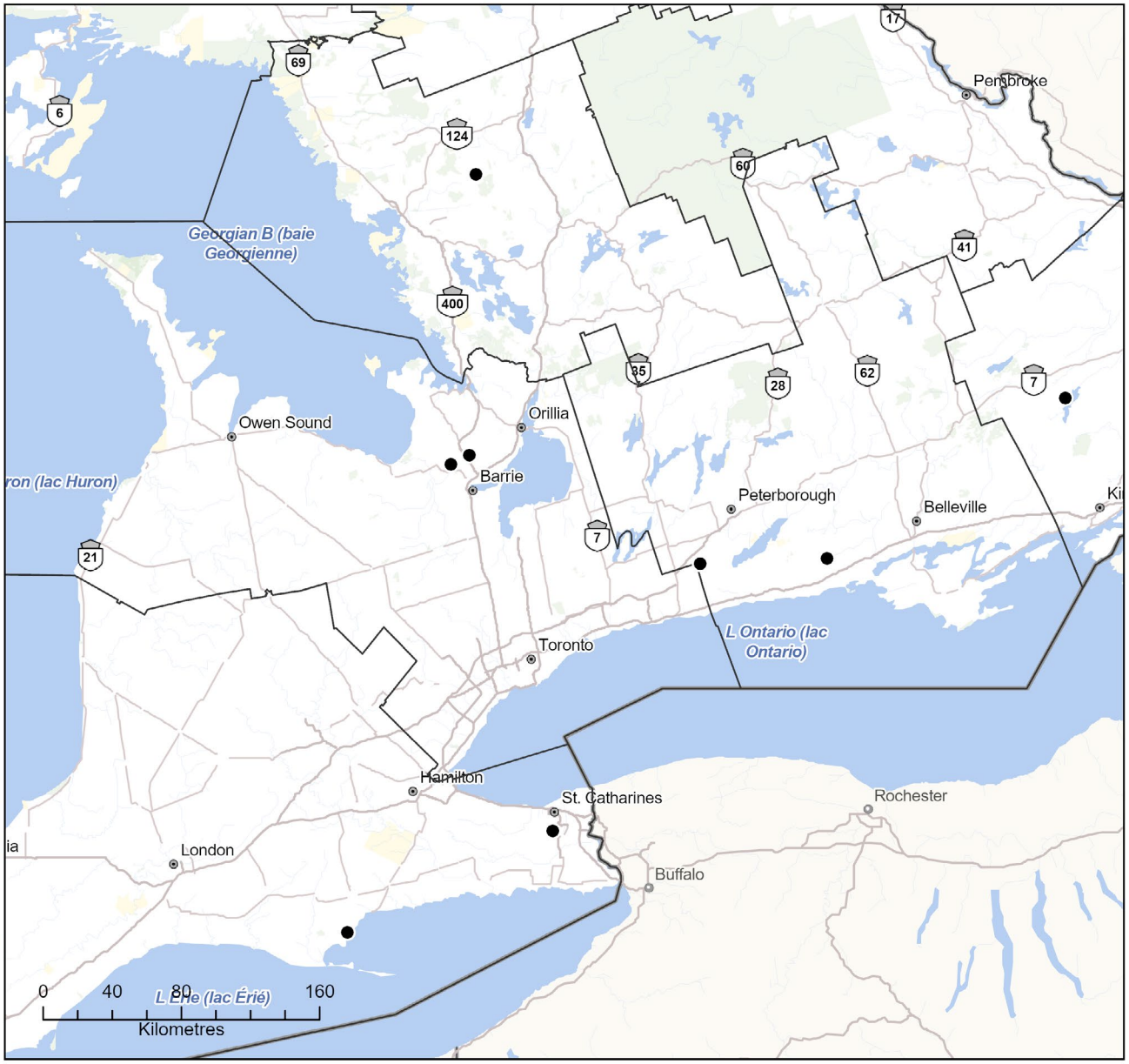
Peterborough Bancroft District, and Oak Bluffs Road in Kemptville Kingston District. In 2025, trace pathogen DNA was detected in the same traps as 2024, and additionally at Ganaraska Forest in Peterborough Bancroft District, Turkey Point Provincial Park in Aylmer Guelph District, and Short Hills Provincial Park in Aylmer Guelph District. The amount of pathogen DNA at all locations over the two-year period was so minute that it was almost undetectable by qPCR testing.

- These results suggest that beetles contaminated with the pathogen are present in southern Ontario, however sources of the pathogen, including infected trees, firewood, or logs, are not near the trapping sites. Compared to trap locations in Michigan during the same timeframe, infected trees 200 m from the traps had a 92% positive rate for oak wilt pathogen DNA presence and much greater quantities of DNA were detected.
- Oak wilt infections can be greatly reduced by not wounding oak trees during the growing season.

Oak Wilt vector trap locations

● Trap Location

Ontario



Satin moth

Pest information

Common name:	Satin moth
Scientific name:	*Leucoma salicis* (L.)
Pest origin:	Invasive — native to Europe and Asia
Pest type:	Defoliator
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Trembling aspen, European white poplar. balsam poplar
Infestation area:	2399 ha (moderate to severe)

Provincial key facts

- Satin moth is found across North America, including most of southern Ontario. This pest continues to expand its range in Ontario, spreading from the south and reaching Sault Ste. Marie in 2011 and Thunder Bay in 2016.
- Satin moth normally infests individual or small groups of ornamental poplar trees, especially European white and Carolina poplar, but will occasionally defoliate poplar and aspen stands.
- In 2025, satin moth was reported in all regions.

Regional summary

Northwest

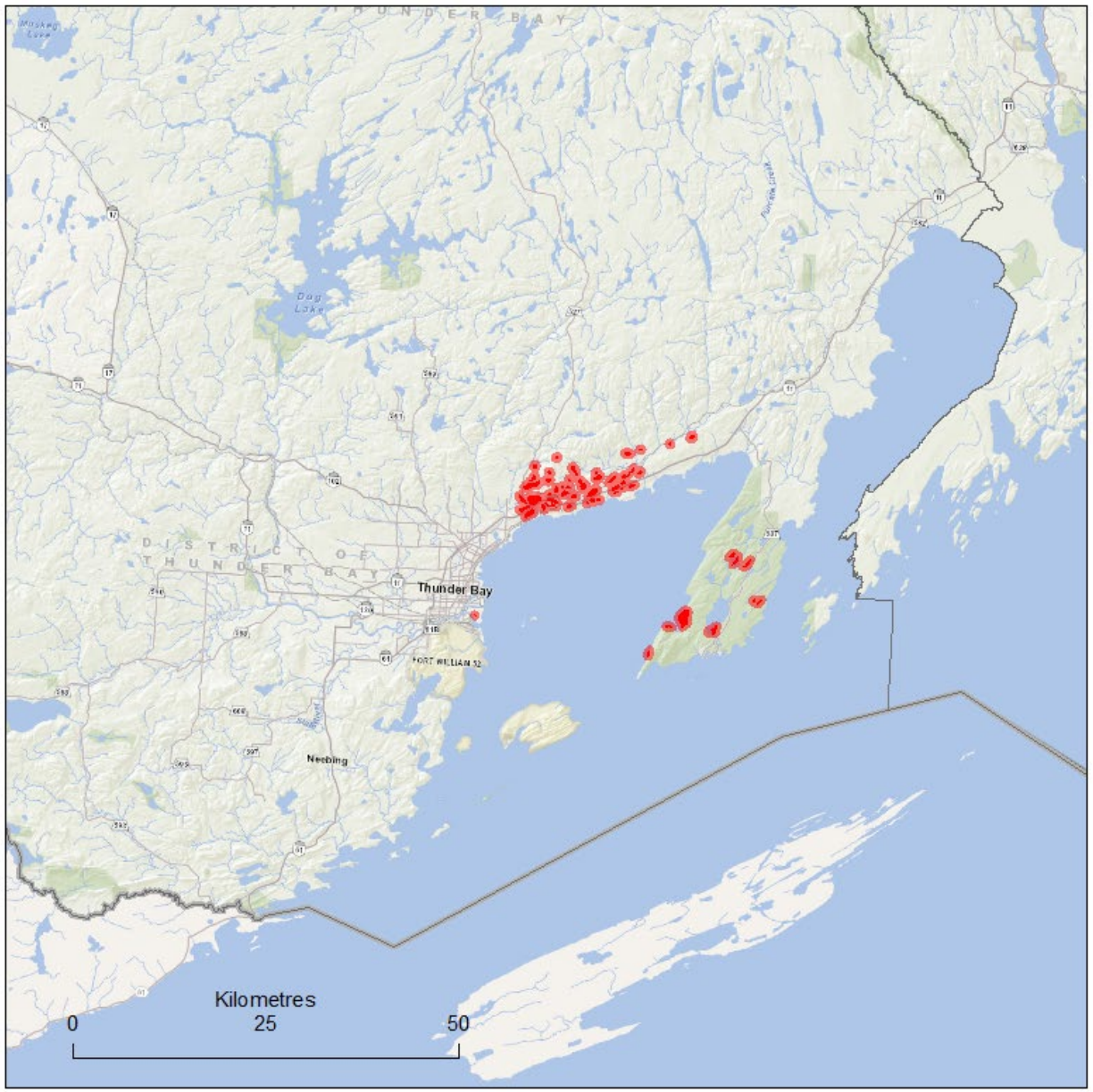
- In Thunder Bay Ignace District, 2399 ha of moderate to severe satin moth defoliation were mapped, a decrease from 8247 ha in 2024. Large areas of severe satin moth defoliation were mapped on Sibley Peninsula, near the Terry Fox monument, and continued about 12 km east of the Terry Fox monument along the Hwy 11/17 corridor and about 4 km north on the Hwy 527 corridor. Defoliation was heaviest north of Hwy 11/17.

Northeast

- In Sault Ste. Marie Blind River District, light satin moth defoliation was observed on a single balsam poplar along Hwy 108 in Elliot Lake.

Southern

- In Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge District, severe satin moth defoliation was observed in the town of Britt affecting a small cluster of hybrid poplar. There was also light defoliation on the understory trembling aspen.



Snow damage

Pest information

Common name:	Snow damage
Scientific name:	NA
Pest origin:	NA
Pest type:	Abiotic
Host species (Ontario 2025):	NA
Infestation area:	Localized

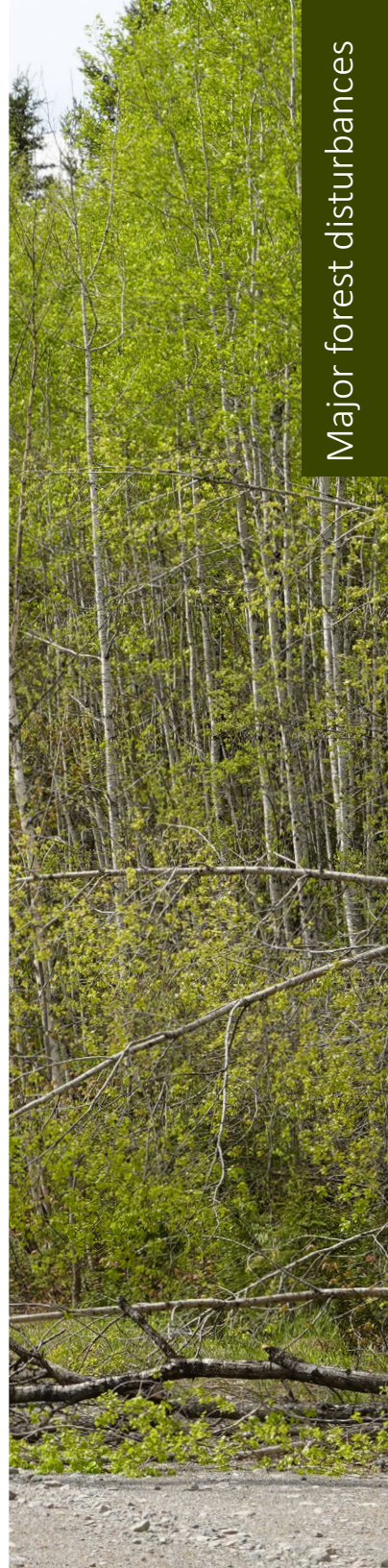
Provincial key facts

- Damage consists of trees of all ages and sizes being uprooted, snapped off, bent over, or showing various amounts of crown damage.
- Snow damage in Ontario can be substantial, but events are sporadic, and effects vary considerably.
- In 2025, snow damage was reported in Northeast Region.

Regional summary

Northeast

- In Sault Ste. Marie Blind River District, snow damage ranged from light to severe in localized areas. Moderate to severe damage occurred along Hwy 556 and Hwy 532 in Deroche and Hodgins townships, on Whitman Dam Road and Finn Road in Searchmont, and throughout Glendale. Eastern white cedar, trembling aspen, spruce, and pine along roadsides were affected. The most severe damage was observed on younger trembling aspen, with main stems bent over 60 degrees, along the west end of Ranger Lake Road in Glendale and on Whitman Dam Road in Searchmont. Additional moderate to severe damage was noted along Hwy 17B in Garden River. Roadside jack, Scots, and eastern white pine were most affected, with Scots pine showing broken tops and planted eastern white pine exhibiting multiple large branch breakages. Light to severe damage also occurred throughout Hiawatha Highlands Conservation Area, primarily affecting pine species. Roadside Scots pine were most severely affected, with many broken tops, while open-grown eastern white pine had several large branches snapped. In forested areas of the conservation area, damage was light and limited to small broken branches.



Spongy moth

Pest information

Common name:	Spongy moth
Scientific name:	*Lymantria dispar dispar* (L.)
Pest origin:	Invasive — native to Europe
Pest type:	Defoliator
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Various hardwood species
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- Spongy moth (formerly known as LDD or gypsy moth) was discovered in Ontario in 1969, with the first severe defoliation case recorded in Kemptville District in 1981.
- Spongy moth outbreaks are cyclical, typically occurring every seven to 10 years. In Ontario, major outbreaks peaked in 1985, 1991, 2002, and 2008. The most recent outbreak, which peaked in 2021, was the most widespread recorded in the province.
- Spongy moth prefers a range of hosts including oak, birch, and aspen, and occasionally feeds on softwoods, such as eastern white pine and Colorado blue spruce.
- Moderate to severe spongy moth defoliation decreased substantially from 1,779,744 ha in 2021 to 22,427 ha in 2022 and 2529 ha in 2023. Moderate to severe defoliation has not been mapped in Ontario since 2023.
- In 2025, trace to moderate spongy moth defoliation was reported in Northeast and Southern regions.

Regional summary

Northeast

- In Sault Ste. Marie Blind River District, light spongy moth defoliation was observed on various hardwood tree species in the eastern part of the district during ground surveys. Light defoliation of largetooth aspen was recorded near the Fire Tower Lookout in Elliot Lake, with similar defoliation noted intermittently on red oak and sugar maple throughout the City of Elliot Lake. Light defoliation was also recorded on several red oak along Granary Lake Road in Blind River, and on red oak and white birch along a trail near High Road in Striker

Twp. Defoliation at both locations was more evident in upper tree crowns. In addition, one new egg mass was collected in a beech stand in Striker Twp in the fall. Light trembling aspen and red oak defoliation was observed along Pipeline Road west of Elliot Lake.

- In Sudbury District, light spongy moth defoliation was observed in the City of Sudbury at the Terry Fox Sports Complex. Light defoliation and a new egg mass was also observed on O'Neil Drive West in Garson.

Southern

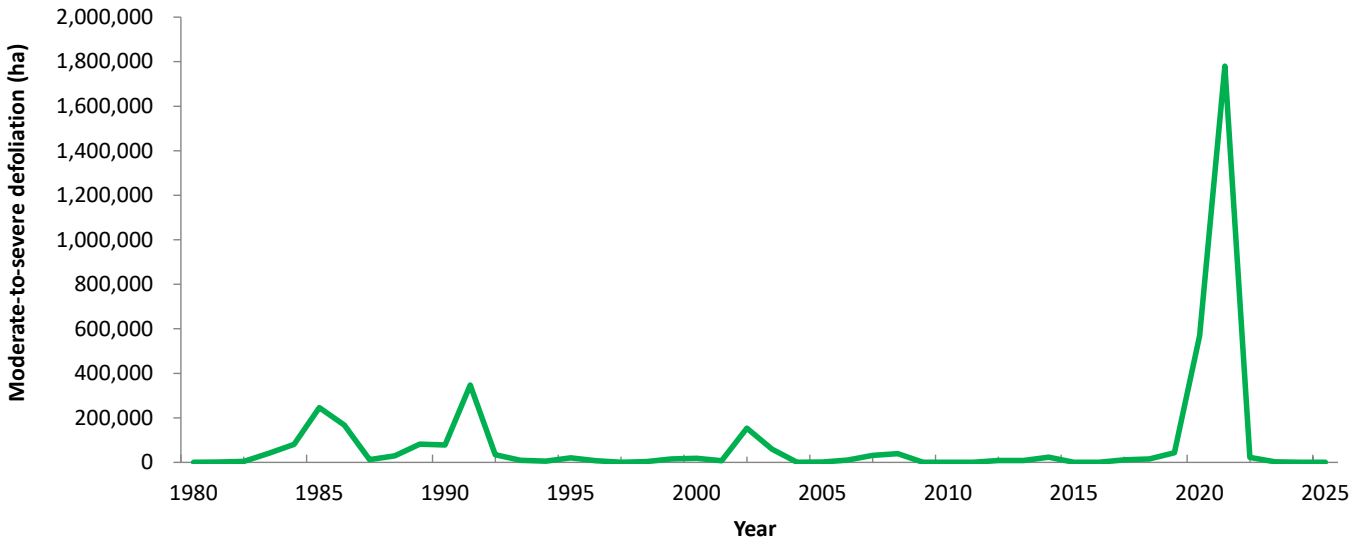
- In Aylmer Guelph District, moderate spongy moth defoliation was observed at McMaster Forest Nature Preserve off Lower Lions Club Road in Hamilton. At the time of survey, small populations of spongy moth larvae were observed feeding alongside larger populations of fall cankerworm larvae. In Haldimand County, trace spongy moth defoliation of white elm and American beech was recorded at Ruigrok Conservation Area near Canborough. In Norfolk County, low spongy moth populations were observed causing trace defoliation of black oak, red oak, basswood, and American beech at St. Williams Conservation Reserve - Nursery Tract. In Middlesex County, trace spongy moth defoliation of witch-hazel and blue beech was recorded at Joany's Woods near Sylvan. In Elgin County, trace populations of spongy moth larvae were observed, but no defoliation was recorded at John E. Pearce Provincial Park near Wallacetown. In Huron County, low levels of female moths and new egg masses were recorded along a trail in western Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area, however no defoliation was recorded.

- In Pembroke District, a small area of moderate to severe spongy moth defoliation was observed along Norton Road, north of Calabogie. The defoliation was recorded on young, regenerating trembling aspen at this location. Trace spongy moth populations and defoliation were also detected at other locations in Renfrew County including near Bissett Creek, Petawawa Research Forest, Jack Pine Park in Petawawa, and along Bulger Road near Lake Doré.

- In Peterborough Bancroft District, moderate spongy moth defoliation was observed affecting silver maple and fringe white elm on County Road 4 south of Gilbert Mills in Prince Edward County. In Kawartha Lakes, light spongy moth defoliation was observed affecting a red oak stand off Sandaraska Road in Ganaraska Forest.

- In Kemptville Kingston District, light spongy moth defoliation of American elm and red oak was recorded south of Hwy 7 along Oak Bluffs Road between Bobs Lake and Crow Lake in South Frontenac Twp.

- In Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge District, light spongy moth defoliation was observed along Riverside Drive in Britt and Nipissing Road South in Magnetawan.



Area (in hectares) of moderate to severe defoliation caused by spongy moth in Ontario, 1980–2025.

Total area (in hectares) in which spongy moth caused moderate to severe defoliation from 2021 to 2025, by MNR district.

Region	Area of damage (ha)				
District	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Northwest					
Dryden Fort Frances Atikokan	0	0	0	0	0
Far North	0	0	0	0	0
Kenora	0	0	0	0	0
Nipigon Geraldton	0	0	0	0	0
Red Lake Sioux Lookout	0	0	0	0	0
Thunder Bay Ignace	0	0	0	0	0
Sub Total	0	0	0	0	0
Northeast					
Chapleau Wawa	0	0	0	0	0
Hearst Cochrane Kapuskasing	0	0	0	0	0
North Bay	3,349	0	0	0	0
Sault Ste Marie Blind River	3,641	0	0	0	0
Sudbury	68,875	0	0	0	0
Timmins Kirkland Lake	52	0	0	0	0
Sub Total	75,917	0	0	0	0
Southern					
Aurora Midhurst Owen Sound	273,438	8	0	0	0
Aylmer Guelph	233,454	20,215	2,529	0	0
Kemptville Kingston	454,917	685	0	0	0
Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge	83,332	0	0	0	0
Pembroke	149,053	452	0	0	0
Peterborough Bancroft	509,632	1,066	0	0	0
Sub Total	1,703,827	22,427	2,529	0	0
Provincial Total	1,779,744	22,427	2,529	0	0

Spruce budworm

Pest information

Common name:	Spruce budworm
Scientific name:	*Choristoneura fumiferana* (Clemens)
Pest origin:	Native to North America
Pest type:	Defoliator
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Balsam fir, white spruce, tamarack, eastern hemlock
Infestation area:	695,739 ha (moderate to severe); 154 ha (light); 80,097 ha (mortality)

Provincial key facts

- Spruce budworm is one of the most damaging native insects affecting fir and spruce in Ontario.
- Spruce budworm outbreaks occur periodically when the primary host — balsam fir — reaches 40 years of age.
- Outbreaks can last several decades and can result in widespread balsam fir and spruce mortality.
- In 2025, moderate to severe spruce budworm defoliation in the province decreased to 695,739 ha from 1,542,016 ha in 2024, with most mapped in Northeast Region.

Regional summary

Northwest

- In Nipigon Geraldton District, 28,587 ha of moderate to severe spruce budworm defoliation were aerially mapped. Areas of defoliation were concentrated from Rossport to the east of Marathon with focus north of Hwy 17 extending up to Long Lake. Smaller areas of moderate to severe defoliation were mapped on Lake Superior islands (Simpson, Vein, Wilson, and Copper islands), and a small area on the northwest shore of Wabikoba Lake. A large area of moderate to severe damage was mapped east of Lake Wabikoba, extending past the Nipigon Geraldton District boundary into Chapleau Wawa District. In addition, 3590 ha of spruce budworm mortality were aerially mapped in scattered areas around Terrace Bay, Jackfish Lake, Steel, Ripple, and north of Neys.
- In Thunder Bay Ignace District, 17,412 ha of moderate to severe spruce budworm defoliation were aerially mapped. Most defoliation was mapped west of Thunder Bay to the southwestern district border by Saganaga

Lake. Concentrated areas of defoliation were mapped south of Dog Lake between the City of Thunder Bay and Whitefish Lake including Oliver Paipoonge, Conmee, and O'Conner townships. Scattered areas of defoliation were mapped on Sibley Peninsula and near Northern Light Falls.

- In Dryden Fort Frances Atikokan District, 1838 ha of moderate to severe spruce budworm defoliation were aerially mapped. The defoliation was scattered throughout and north of Quetico Provincial Park.
- In Kenora District, 98 ha of spruce budworm mortality were aerially mapped north of Wonderland Lake.
- In Red Lake Sioux Lookout District, light spruce budworm defoliation was observed at Pakwash Provincial Park on a single white spruce on Goldie Lake Road, southwest of Sioux Lookout.

Northeast

- In Chapleau Wawa District, 173,737 ha of moderate to severe spruce budworm defoliation were aerially mapped. Extensive moderate to severe defoliation was mapped throughout the central and northeastern parts of the district with most defoliation concentrated around Windemere Lake, Como Lake, Racine Lake, Nemegosenda Lake, Lipsett Lake, Chapleau River, Manitowik Lake, Chapleau - Nemegosenda River Provincial Park, and the Town of Chapleau. In the western part of the district, moderate to severe defoliation was scattered with a few concentrated areas in Pukaskwa National Park. The defoliation continued north to the western district border near White Lake and east of Pukaskwa National Park to Hwy 17. In addition, 12,839 ha of scattered spruce budworm mortality were aerially mapped along the northeastern district border in Melrose, Oswald, Oates, Foleyet, Ivanhoe, Horwood, Keith, and Muskego townships. Mortality was also mapped near the southeastern district border in Bazett, Lillie, Biscotasi, Smuts, Alcona, Hollinger, and Margaret townships. Larger areas of mortality were mapped on the west of the Windermere Goldie Lake Complex, north of Cosmo Lake, around Racine Lake, between Racine and Nemegosenda lakes, and in Lincoln Twp south of the Chapleau Nemegosenda River.
- In Timmins Kirkland Lake District, 105,295 ha of moderate to severe spruce budworm defoliation were aerially mapped throughout the entire district. The most concentrated areas of moderate to severe defoliation were east of Hwy 11 including areas south of Lake Abitibi and areas around Kirkland Lake, Round Lake, Larder Lake, South Mindoka, and Marter. Scattered areas of moderate to severe defoliation were aerially mapped near Charlton, Elk Lake, Gowganda, Matachewan, Watabeag Lake, north of Hwy 101 near Connaught, and east of Kukatush along Hwy 101. In addition, 20,282 ha of mortality were aerially mapped in the western part of the district. Extensive areas of mortality were mapped from Paudash Lake east of Hwy 144 continuing north to Gogama and from Hwy 101 near Opishing Lake east to Timmins. Smaller areas of mortality were also mapped near Horwood Lake, Wenakoshi Lake, Arbeesee Lake, Tatachikapika Lake, and Enid Creek.
- In Sault Ste. Marie Blind River District, 82,358 ha of moderate to severe spruce budworm defoliation were aerially mapped in several areas throughout the district. Extensive areas of defoliation were mapped around Searchmont and Ranger Lake. Sporadic areas of moderate to severe defoliation were mapped in the eastern

part of the district near Elliot Lake and Mississagi Provincial Park. Smaller areas were mapped north of Sault Ste. Marie, near 6th Line and Alona Bay, and on St. Joseph Island. Intermittent areas of light defoliation were observed along Hwy 17 west of Thessalon to Echo Bay and in Prince Twp. In addition, 8551 ha of mortality were aerially mapped in the southeastern part of the district around Thessalon, Iron Bridge, and Hwy 546.

- In North Bay District, 53,795 ha of moderate to severe spruce budworm defoliation were aerially mapped across the district. Concentrated areas were mapped in East Ferris, Grand Desert, Bonfield, Calvin Twp, Eau Claire, Kiosk, and along the district's southern edge bordering Algonquin Provincial Park. Defoliation was also mapped near Redbridge, north of Redbridge to Jocko Rivers Provincial Park, near Harte Lake and Little Brute Lake, and further north from Brute Lake to Maxam Lake. Scattered areas of defoliation were aerially mapped near Wakimika Lake, north of Verner to River Valley, north of Mowat Landing, west of Latchford, and around New Liskeard. During aerial surveys, 2642 ha of mortality were mapped around Lake Nosbonsing, Wasi Lake, and in areas north of Balsam Creek and Lake Talon.
- In Sudbury District, 45,002 ha of moderate to severe spruce budworm defoliation were mapped during aerial surveys. Most defoliation was mapped in the northern part of Sudbury District from Wanapitei Lake west to the Sault Ste. Marie Blind River District boundary. Townships with the highest concentrations of spruce budworm defoliation included Durban, Avis, Jasper, Beebe, Muldrew, Ulster, Fairbairn, Sweeny, Botha, Beaumont, and Roberts. Other areas of mapped spruce budworm defoliation were located in Ouellette, Moncrieff, Ermatinger, Totten, Hyman, Nairn, and Foster townships. Large stands with moderate to severe defoliation were also mapped throughout Whitefish River 6. Moderate to severe defoliation was mapped on Manitoulin Island along Hwy 6 from Little Current to South Baymouth, Government Road from South Baymouth to Providence Bay, and along Hwy 540 from Meldrum Bay to Little Current. Other areas of moderate to severe defoliation on Manitoulin Island included Hwy 551, Hwy 542, Monument Road, Union Road, and Burnt Island Road. In addition, 4395 ha of spruce budworm mortality were aerially mapped primarily in the southern part of the district and some central sections. Townships with mapped mortality included Lockeyer, Cadeau, Victoria, Moses, Weeks, Shibananing, Gough, May, Ermatinger, Totten, Hyman, Nairn, Curtin, Morgan, Rayside, Waters, Eden, Halifax, Attlee, Laura, Hawley, Fraleck, and Hendrie. Most mortality in the northern part of Sudbury District was mapped in Gervais, Hotte, Muldrew, Moncrieff, Foy, Creelman, and Hanmer townships. Mortality was also mapped on Manitoulin Island around Providence Bay and in Mills Twp along Union Road.
- In Hearst Cochrane Kapuskasing District, 37,342 ha of moderate to severe spruce budworm defoliation were aerially mapped. Defoliation was continuous from east of Iroquois Falls to the Ontario-Québec border, north of Lake Abitibi. Defoliation was also mapped around Little Abitibi Lake, Pierre Lake, Montreuil Lake, and Bower. Smaller areas of defoliation were mapped around Cochrane, Genier, Gardiner, Eddie Lake, Hunta, Smooth Rock Falls, Kapuskasing Lake, and along Kirkwall River. In addition, 25,777 ha of spruce budworm mortality were mapped throughout the southeast part of the district with most mortality occurring in sporadic areas north of Iroquois Falls to Pierre Lake. Other areas of mortality were mapped along Hwy 11 starting in the Cochrane area to Strickland. A large area of mortality was mapped within the Greenwater Provincial Park boundary and

northeast of the park around the Abitibi River. Other areas of continuous mortality were mapped in Haggart, Sydere, Ford, Carmichael, MacVicar, Stringer, Hicks, Watson, Poulett, and Aitken townships.

Southern

- In Pembroke District, 104,161 ha of moderate to severe spruce budworm defoliation were aerially mapped. In Algonquin Provincial Park, large, continuous areas of moderate to severe spruce budworm defoliation were concentrated in northern, western, and central parts of the park. Moderate to severe defoliation was mapped intermittently in the eastern part of the park and was concentrated around Lake Travers and Lone Creek. Small areas of moderate to severe defoliation were also mapped along Otter Creek in the southern panhandle. In Renfrew County, areas of intermittent moderate to severe defoliation extended beyond Algonquin Provincial Park and were mapped west of Pembroke along Hwy 58 to Bonnechere Provincial Park, and areas north of Barry's Bay to Combermere. Moderate to severe defoliation extended along Hwy 17 north of Chalk River to Deux-Rivières and the North Bay District boundary. During aerial surveys, 345 ha of spruce budworm mortality were mapped in Renfrew County in small areas along the northeastern edge of Algonquin Provincial Park near Chateau Lake and Deux-Rivières.
- In Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge District, 41,155 ha of moderate to severe spruce budworm defoliation were mapped, with large, concentrated areas near the northeast Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge – Algonquin Park Boundary in Ballantyne, Paxton, Butt, Joly, and Proudfoot townships. The amount of moderate to severe spruce budworm defoliation increased from 12,398 ha mapped in 2024. Severe defoliation was observed along Hwy 11 South, Hwy 124, Hwy 118, Hwy 35, and Hwy 60. Light defoliation was observed along North Pickerel Road, Hwy 522 in Mowat Twp, along the shoreline of Eagle Lake, and Grundy Lake Provincial Park. In addition, 1579 ha of spruce budworm mortality were aerially mapped. Stands with mortality were scattered, but particularly near South River and Sundridge.
- In Peterborough Bancroft District, 4948 ha of moderate to severe spruce budworm defoliation were aerially mapped. In South Algonquin Twp, scattered areas of moderate to severe defoliation were mapped from Whitney to Madawaska, along Upper Madawaska River and Opeongo River, and bordering Algonquin Park. In Hastings Highlands Twp, areas of moderate to severe spruce budworm defoliation were mapped from Lake Saint Peter to Hickey Settlement, and from Combermere to McArthur Mills. In Kawartha Lakes, a small area of moderate to severe white spruce defoliation was mapped in Balsam Lake Provincial Park. In addition, 154 ha of light defoliation were mapped in a small area near Boulter.
- In Aurora Midhurst Owen Sound District, 110 ha of moderate to severe spruce budworm defoliation were ground mapped on white spruce and balsam fir on Greenough Point Road and Gauley's Bay Road, east of Stokes Bay.

Trend analysis/outlook/issues

Spruce budworm spray program

After the 2024 season, the spruce budworm control spray program was paused, and no associated programs were completed in 2025.

Spruce budworm pheromone trapping

Spruce budworm pheromone trapping was carried out across the province. Traps were deployed at 62 locations: 17 in Northwest Region, 27 in Northeast Region, and 18 in Southern Region.

In Northwest Region, the average number of male moths per trap was 9, notably lower from the 285 male moths in 2024. In Northeast Region, the average number of male moths per trap was 13, a decline from 360 average in 2024. In Southern Region, the average number of male moths per trap was 20, which was also down from 159 moths in 2024.

The highest average number of moths recorded was in Peterborough Bancroft District with 148 male moths. Other locations with high moth traps counts were in Nipigon Geraldton District (103), Pembroke District (55), and North Bay District (55).

Spruce budworm mortality plots

Spruce budworm mortality plots were completed in North Bay and Chapleau Wawa districts and had last been completed in 2016. These plots were established as spruce budworm defoliation began to increase in Northeast Region and are used to quantify the percentage of mortality in susceptible host stands and rate mortality over the time of a spruce budworm infestation.

In 2016, 96% of total host trees were alive and 4% were recently dead. All white and black spruce trees in the plots were live, and 95% live balsam fir and 5% recently dead balsam fir.

In 2025, 40% of host trees were live and 60% were recent or old dead. All host trees had a mix of live and dead trees, with 31% balsam fir live and 69% dead; 43% white spruce live and 43% dead; and 84% black spruce live and 16% dead. Balsam fir was the most common tree in these locations with 288 balsam fir trees surveyed compared to 68 white spruce, and 58 black spruce trees.

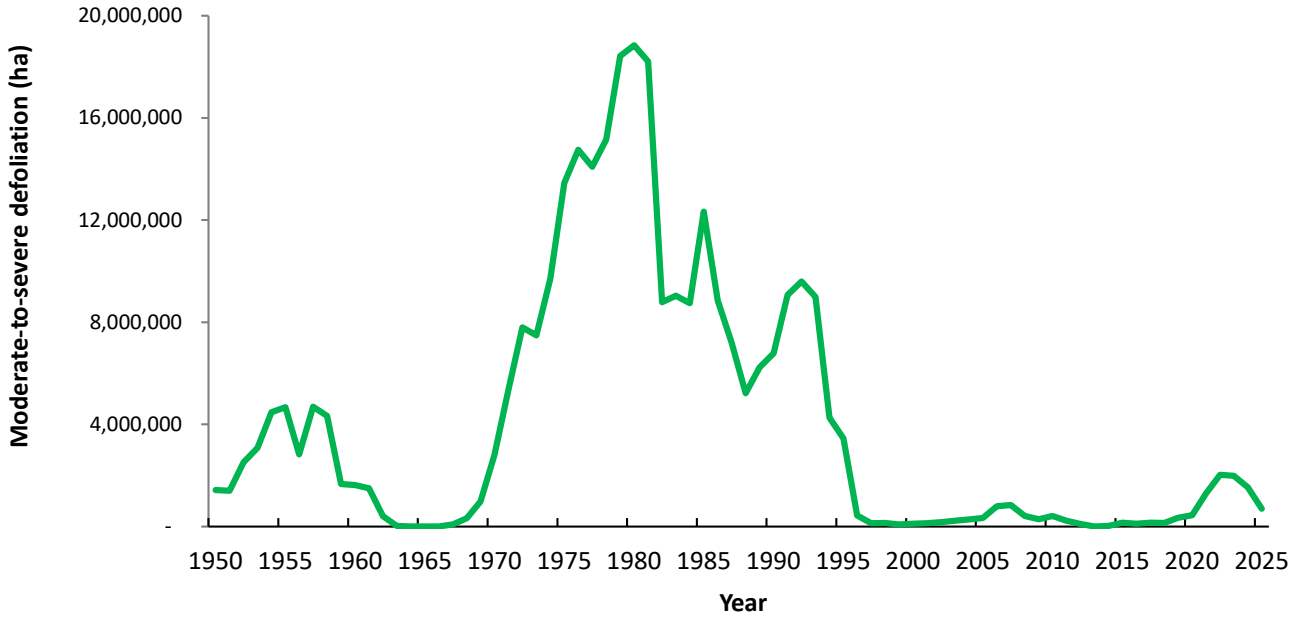
Of all the dead trees, 96% were classified as old dead (dead prior to 2025) and 4% were recent dead (died in 2025). In addition, 65% of the old dead trees had broken tops. This information indicates that most of the mortality occurred in the prior 8 years over the course of the peak spruce budworm defoliation.

In addition to these spruce budworm mortality plots, spruce budworm related mortality was assessed in collaboration with the Growth and Yield Monitoring Program. In Northeast Region, growth and yield plots were identified in areas of recent spruce budworm defoliation that had not been included in the control spray program. Similar methodology to the jack pine health plots were used to assess spruce budworm host trees (balsam fir, black spruce, white spruce) in these established plots. In 2025, 1906 balsam fir, 483 black spruce, and 146 white spruce trees were assessed. Of these trees, 961 (50%) balsam fir, 59 (12%) black spruce, and 39 (27%) white spruce were reported as recent or old dead. At least 5% of spruce budworm defoliation was recorded on 83% of balsam fir, 37% of black spruce, and 75% of white spruce trees.

Spruce budworm forecasting - egg mass sampling

Spruce budworm moths lay their eggs on host species' needles around mid-August. Once they hatch, the new spruce budworm larvae overwinter at the base of the needles or under the bark scales until spring. Spruce budworm egg mass sampling is a method to forecast the upcoming spring population.

Spruce budworm egg mass sampling was completed in Northwest Region. In late summer to early fall, 27 sites were sampled in Dryden Fort Frances Atikokan District, Thunder Bay Ignace District, and Nipigon Geraldton District. Most (13) egg mass surveys predicted low defoliation, eight severe defoliation, five moderate defoliation, and one nil defoliation.



Total area (in hectares) in which spruce budworm caused moderate to severe defoliation in Ontario from 1950 to 2025.

Total area (hectares) in which spruce budworm caused moderate to severe defoliation from 2021–2025 by MNR district.

Region	Area of damage (ha)				
District	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Northwest					
Dryden Fort Frances Atikokan	0	0	14,072	75,183	1,837
Far North	0	0			0
Kenora	0	0	58	4,911	0
Nipigon Geraldton	0	0	101,885	13,994	28,588
Red Lake Sioux Lookout	0	0		4,414	0
Thunder Bay Ignace	0	0	3,002	17,316	17,412
Sub Total	0	0	119,018	115,818	47,837
Northeast					
Chapleau Wawa	143,278	156,232	349,383	314,881	173,736
Hearst Cochrane Kapuskasing	525,697	648,136	536,566	512,238	37,342
North Bay	30,574	41,750	76,475	74,012	53,795
Sault Ste Marie Blind River	6,435	22,018	60,231	101,403	82,358
Sudbury	157,832	437,474	275,611	62,147	45,002
Timmins Kirkland Lake	438,373	706,842	552,639	274,899	105,294
Sub Total	1,302,190	2,012,451	1,850,904	1,339,580	497,528
Southern					
Aurora Midhurst Owen Sound	0	0	0	8,363	110
Aylmer Guelph	0	0	0	0	0
Kemptville Kingston	0	0	0	0	0
Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge	348	16,588	12,731	12,398	41,155
Pembroke	0	1	389	65,634	104,161
Peterborough Bancroft	0	0	0	223	4,947
Sub Total	348	16,588	13,119	86,616	150,373
Provincial Total	1,302,537	2,029,039	1,983,042	1,542,014	695,739

Spruce budworm 2025

Areas in Ontario where spruce budworm caused defoliation

Light = 154 ha
Moderate to severe = 695,739 ha
Mortality = 80,097 ha

- Area of light defoliation
- Area of moderate to severe defoliation
- Area of mortality

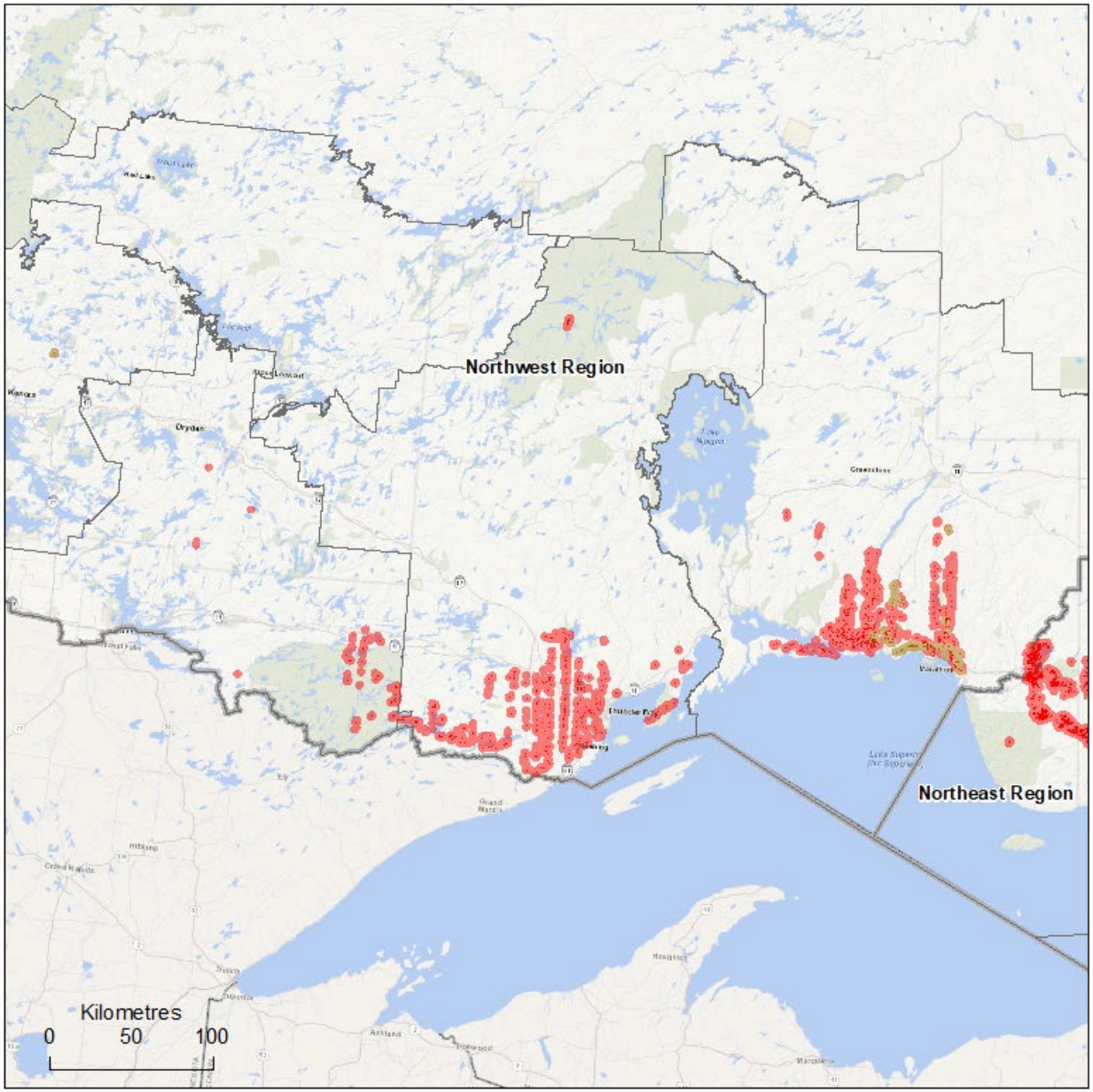
Spruce budworm 2025

Areas in Northwest Region where spruce budworm caused defoliation

Moderate to severe = 47,837 ha
Mortality = 3,688 ha

Area of moderate to severe defoliation

Area of mortality



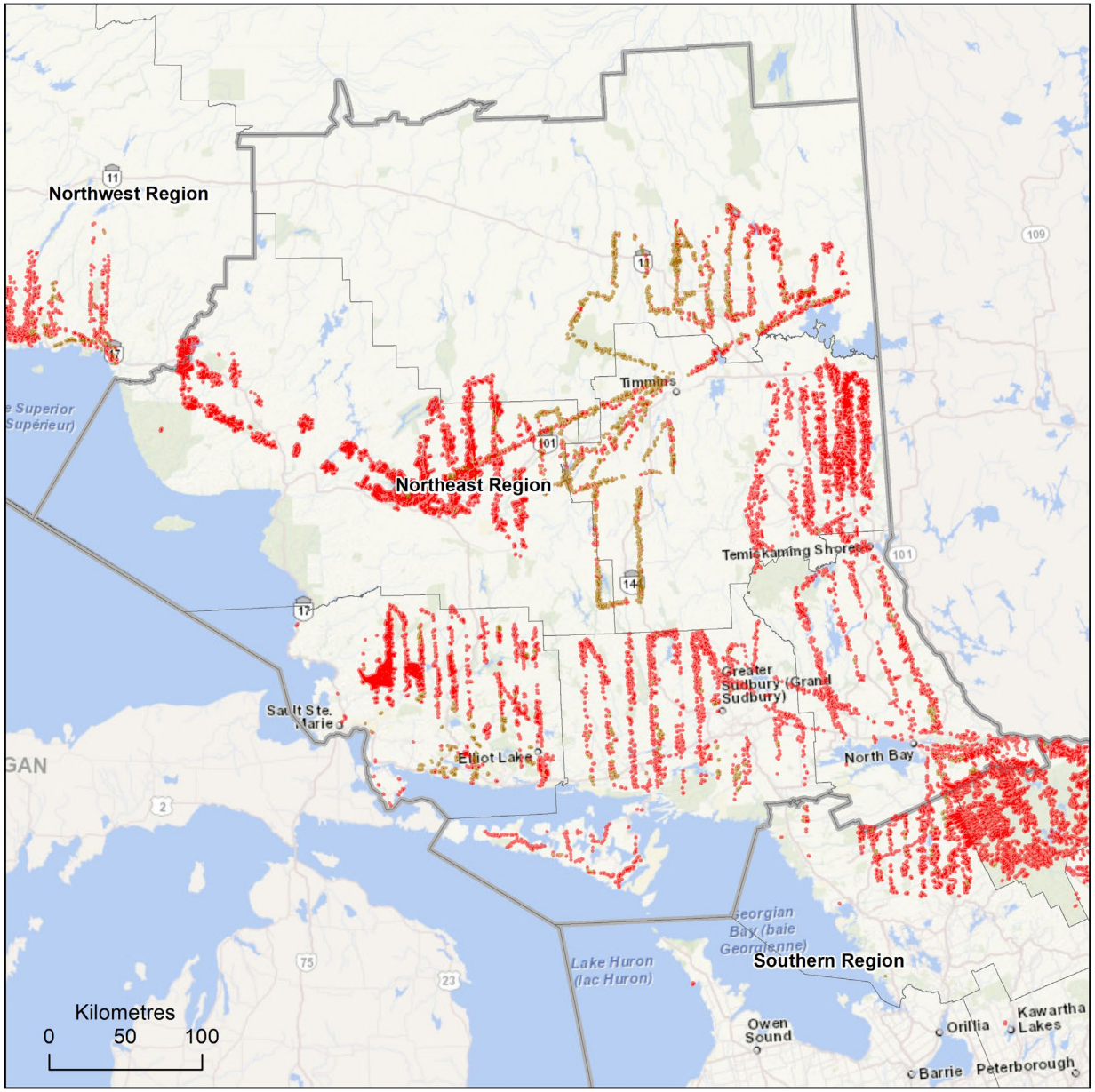
Spruce budworm 2025

Areas in Northeast Region where spruce budworm caused defoliation

Moderate to severe = 497,529 ha
Mortality = 74,486 ha

Area of moderate to severe defoliation

Area of mortality

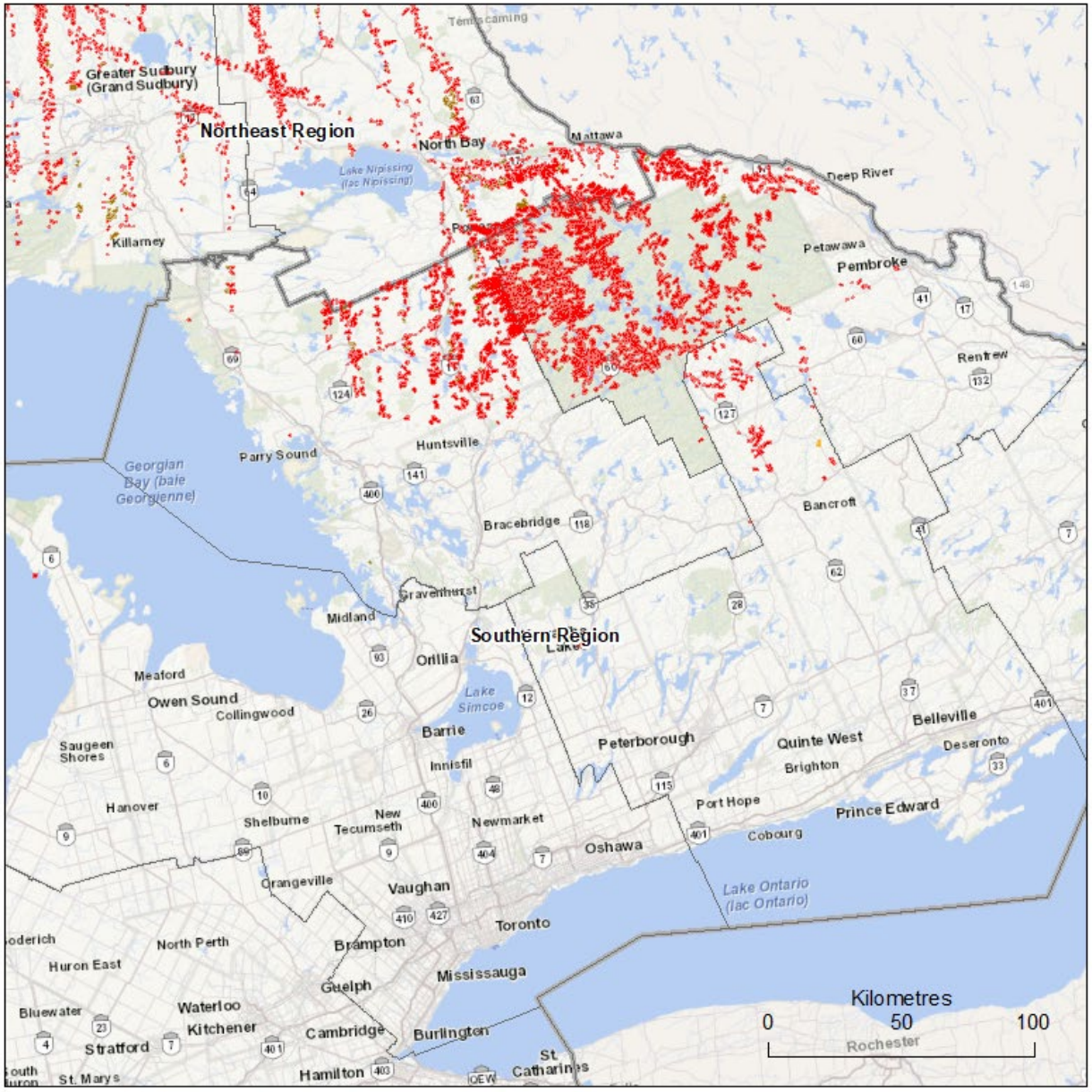


Spruce budworm 2025

Areas in Southern Region where spruce budworm caused defoliation

Light = 154 ha
Moderate to severe = 150,373 ha
Mortality = 1,924 ha

- Area of light defoliation
- Area of moderate to severe defoliation
- Area of mortality



Spruce budworm pheromone trapping results 2025

Average number of moths per trap

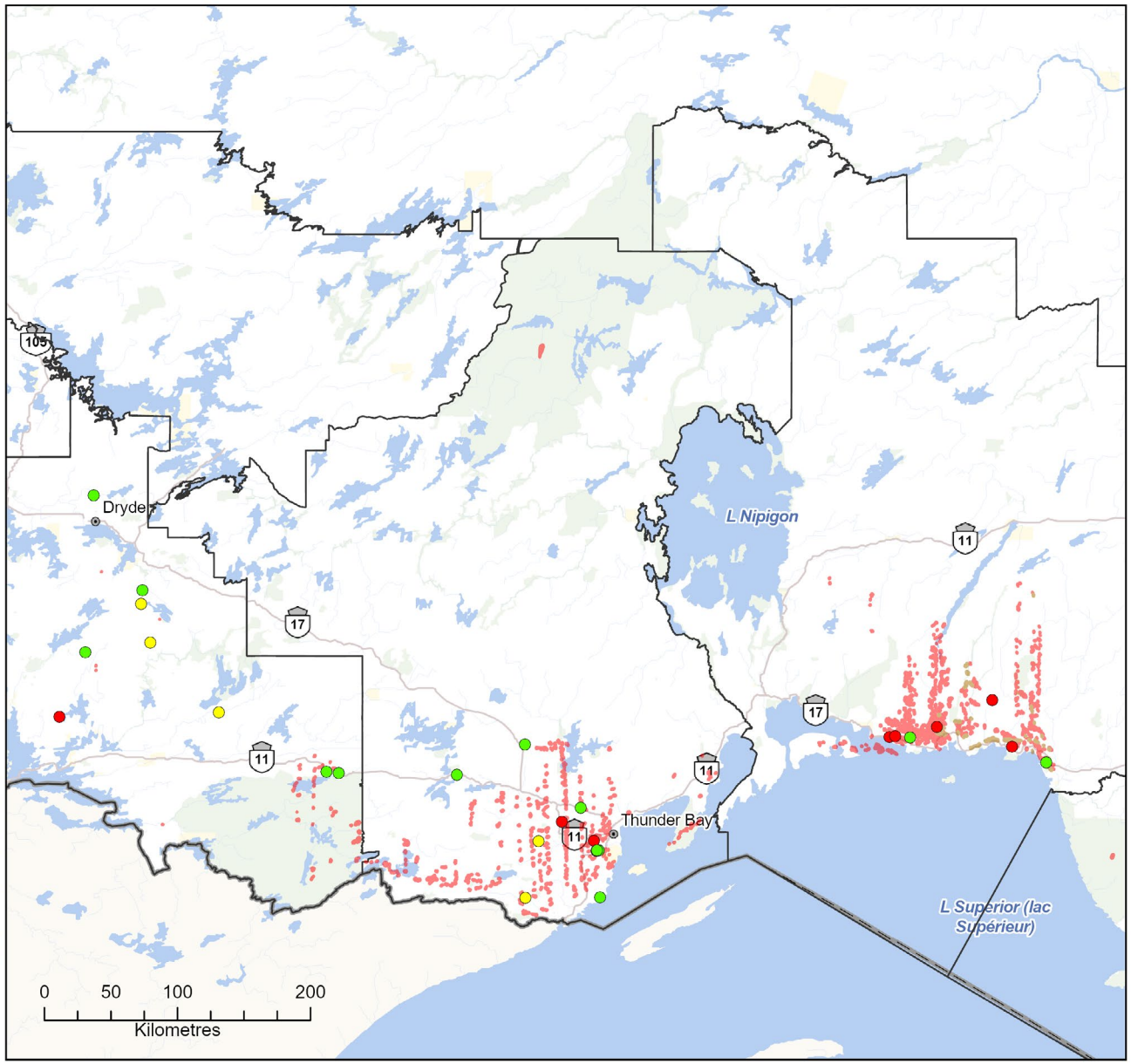
- < 10
- 10 - 25
- 25 - 50
- 50 - 100
- > 100

Spruce budworm egg mass survey results

Defoliation Forecast 2026

- Severe
- Moderate
- Light
- Area of moderate to severe defoliation
- Area of light defoliation
- Area of mortality

Ontario



Willow leafminer

Pest information

Common name:	Willow leafminer
Scientific name:	*Micrurapteryx salicifoliella* (Cham.)
Pest origin:	Native to North America
Pest type:	Leaf miner
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Willow species
Infestation area:	342 ha (moderate to severe)

Provincial key facts

- Willow leafminer is a defoliator that affects willow and poplar species.
- This pest can be widespread at times.
- The larvae feed on the inner tissue of leaves causing foliage to turn brown and drop prematurely.
- In 2025, willow leafminer defoliation was aerially mapped in Northeast Region.

Regional summary

Northeast

- In Hearst Cochrane Kapuskasing District, 327 ha of moderate to severe willow leafminer defoliation were mapped in St. John, Mortimer, Case, Kenning, Bragg, Sangser, Potter, Laughton, Blount, Leitch, Kendrey, and Bradburn townships. Defoliation was scattered throughout the district.
- In Timmins Kirkland Lake District, 15 ha of moderate to severe willow leafminer defoliation were mapped throughout the district. A small area was mapped in Murphy Township, north of Craft Creek and west of Hwy 655. A small area was also mapped northeast of the Mattagami River on the border of Mountjoy and Jessup townships.
- In North Bay District, moderate defoliation affecting roadside willow was collected on Labrosse Road in Badgerow Twp and on Sand Dam Road in Merrick Twp.
- In Sudbury District , severe defoliation was observed along Hwy 6 on Birch Island and McLary Road in Hallam Twp. Moderate defoliation was observed along Vermillion Lake Road, in Fairbank Twp.

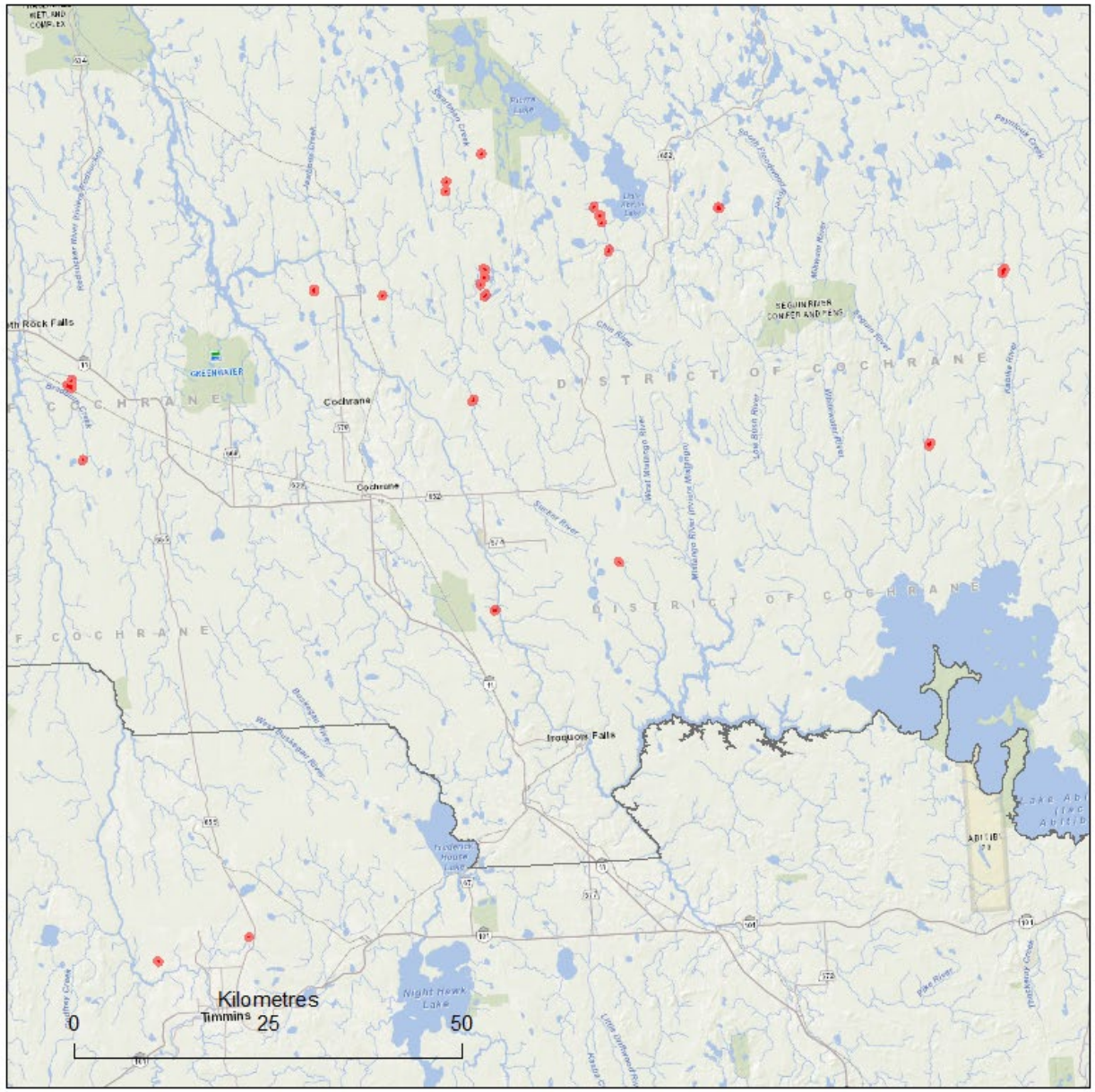
- In Chapleau Wawa District, light to moderate willow leafminer defoliation was observed north of White River in Johns and Odlum townships.

Willow leaf miner 2025

Areas in Ontario where willow leaf miner caused defoliation

Moderate to severe = 342 ha

Area of moderate to severe defoliation



Minor forest disturbances

Anthracnose

Pest information

Common name:	Anthracnose
Scientific name:	*Apiognomonia spp., Apiognomonia errabunda* (Roberge ex Desm.) Höhn., Ann. Mycol.
Pest origin:	Native to North America
Pest type:	Foliar disease
Host species (Ontario 2025):	American beech
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- Fungal foliar diseases such as anthracnose are known to flourish during years with cool, wet conditions in spring followed by hot, humid weather in summer.
- Generally, anthracnose is not considered a serious issue, but infection may weaken and predispose affected trees to other disturbance agents.
- Removal and destruction of fallen leaves can limit re-infection the following spring.
- In 2025, pathogens that cause this disease were reported in Southern Region.

Regional summary

Southern

- In Aylmer Guelph District, anthracnose foliar damage was recorded on American beech trees. In Niagara Region, moderate foliar damage was observed throughout the eastern half of Short Hills Provincial Park and along trails at John's Conservation Area near Effingham. In Norfolk County, moderate foliar damage was observed on beech trees of all age and canopy classes at Backus Woods and Wilson Tract. In Elgin County, moderate foliar damage was observed at John E. Pearce Provincial Park, Tanager Tract near West Lorne, West Elgin Nature Reserve, and along Silver Clay Line between Macpherson Line and Furnival Road. At all locations listed, anthracnose damage and beech leaf disease symptoms occurred simultaneously, with damage concentrated in the understory and lower crowns of affected beech trees. Anthracnose symptoms included brown leaf spots and blotches, and premature leaf drop. Anthracnose is generally considered a minor or cosmetic issue for beech trees in Ontario. However, when combined with other factors like beech bark disease or beech leaf disease, it can lead to further stress, possibly accelerating decline or tree mortality.

Asian chestnut gall wasp

Pest information

Common name:	Asian chestnut gall wasp
Scientific name:	*Dryocosmus kuriphilus* Yasumatsu
Pest origin:	Invasive — native to China
Pest type:	Gall wasp
Host species (Ontario 2025):	American chestnut
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- The first North American Asian chestnut gall wasp detection was in Georgia in 1974 on imported Chinese chestnut (*Castanea mollissima*). Since its introduction, the species has expanded its range across eastern North America through natural dispersal and human movement of infested plant material.
- In 2012, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency confirmed its presence in Niagara on the Lake, Ontario.
- Asian chestnut gall wasp is exclusively associated with chestnuts (*Castanea spp.*) and causes small globular galls that develop along young stems and twigs, and on leaf petioles and veins.
- In 2025, it was reported affecting wild populations of American chestnut trees in Southern Region.

Regional summary

Southern

- In Aylmer Guelph District, moderate Asian chestnut gall wasp damage was recorded for the first time affecting a wild population of American chestnut trees at Backus Woods in Norfolk County. Three young trees and several regenerating stumps were observed with old and new galls on twigs, epicormic shoots, leaves, and petioles. Stem lesions and branch dieback associated with chestnut blight were also recorded on affected trees.

Trend analysis/outlook/issues

In Ontario, American chestnut trees are endangered largely due to an epidemic caused by an invasive fungal disease called chestnut blight (*Cryphonectria parasitica*). The Asian chestnut gall wasp may pose another threat to the recovery of chestnut populations in North America. At high densities, galls can reduce tree vigour, growth, and nut production, which could further exacerbate the decline of host trees, with some cases resulting in tree mortality.

A known parasite of Asian chestnut gall wasp, *Torymus sinensis*, was detected in Ontario in 2024, and is now established in parts of the eastern United States. This parasitic wasp is known to deposit egg clutches in Asian chestnut gall wasps during their early to intermediate developmental stages, which may aid in regulating populations of Asian chestnut gall wasp in Ontario.

Aspen leafblotch miner

Pest information

Common name:	Aspen leafblotch miner
Scientific name:	*Phyllonorycter ontario* (Freeman)
Pest origin:	Native to North America
Pest type:	Defoliator
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Trembling aspen
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- Aspen leafblotch miner is the most common leafminer in Ontario.
- It prefers young trembling and largetooth aspen.
- Larvae mine between the upper and lower surface of leaves giving them a blotched appearance.
- When larvae first develop, blotches are not always visible on the top side of the leaf.
- Tree mortality is rare, but repeated infestations may reduce tree health and growth rate.
- In 2025, aspen leafblotch miner was reported in Northwest and Northeast regions.

Regional summary

Northwest

- In Thunder Bay Ignace District, widespread, moderate defoliation was observed in Oliver Paipoonge Twp. Trace defoliation from aspen leafblotch miner was also sampled on 25th Side Road in Oliver Paipoonge Twp.

Northeast

- In North Bay District, moderate aspen leafblotch miner defoliation was observed on most of the trembling aspen in the stand at the rest stop in Latchford in Coleman Twp. Light defoliation from aspen leafblotch miner was collected on Ranger Road in Blyth Twp, and Olrig Road in Olrig Twp.
- In Sudbury District, moderate aspen leafblotch miner defoliation was found throughout the crown of trembling aspens along Hwy 84 in Hutton Twp.
- In Chapleau Wawa District, light aspen leafblotch miner defoliation in the upper crown on young to semi mature trembling aspen was sampled on Kenogami Lake Lumber Road, north of Hornepayne in Wicksteed Twp.

Balsam poplar leafblotch miner

Pest information

Common name:	Balsam poplar leafblotch miner
Scientific name:	*Phyllonorycter nipigon* (Freeman)
Pest origin:	Native to North America
Pest type:	Defoliator
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Balsam poplar
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- Balsam poplar leafblotch miner occurs occasionally in large numbers in Ontario and infestations are short lived.
- This pest of balsam polar is more common north and west of Lake Superior.
- The balsam leafblotch miner is closely related to the aspen leafblotch miner.
- In 2025, balsam poplar leafblotch miner was recorded in the Northeast Region.

Regional summary

Northeast

- In North Bay District, moderate balsam poplar leafblotch miner defoliation was observed on Weyerhauser Road.
- In Chapleau Wawa District, trace to light amounts of balsam poplar leafblotch miner defoliation was observed from Hornepayne, south to Hornepayne Creek Road. Blotches with notable spots in the centre and casings were noted on leaves.
- In Sault Ste. Marie Blind River District, trace balsam poplar leafblotch defoliation was collected on Plummer Road in Plummer Twp and along Gordon Lake Road in Johnson Twp.

Beech blight aphid

Pest information

Common name:	Beech blight aphid
Scientific name:	*Grylloprociphilus imbricator* (Fitch)
Pest origin:	Native to North America
Pest type:	Sucking insect
Host species (Ontario 2025):	American beech
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- The beech blight aphid, also known as the boogie woogie aphid, is named after the movement of their woolly posterior when the colony is disturbed.
- Beech blight aphids are not a serious threat to tree health but may cause dieback on heavily infested branches.
- The *Scolias spongiosa* species of sooty mold is exclusively associated with the beech blight aphid which feeds exclusively on the honeydew it produces.
- In 2025, beech blight aphids were observed in Southern Region.

Regional summary

Southern

- In Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge District, large populations of beech blight aphids severely damaged intermediate and understory beech on South Crane Lake Road in Conger Twp. Honeydew production was high with *Scolias spongiosa* found on some branches and tree boles. High levels of beech blight aphids causing light to moderate damage were observed on beech trees along Blind Bay Road in Carling and Clear Lake Road in Ardbeg. No *Scolias spongiosa* was observed at either of these locations.

Beech scale

Pest information

Common name:	Beech scale
Scientific name:	*Cryptococcus fagisuga* Lindinger
Pest origin:	Invasive — native to Europe
Pest type:	Sucking insect
Host species (Ontario 2025):	American beech
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- Beech scale was first found in Canada in the 1890s in Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- In Ontario, it was first found in 1966 in Elgin County along the north shore of Lake Erie.
- This insect is now found across the range of beech in Ontario.
- Infestation with scale predisposes beech trees to beech bark disease, which noticeably reduces vigour and eventually kills the tree.
- In 2025, various levels of beech scale were observed in Northeast and Southern regions.

Regional summary

Northeast

- In Sault Ste Marie Blind River District, moderate levels of beech scale were observed in a hardwood stand in Striker Twp near Blind River. Beech scale was observed predominantly on understory trees but was also present on dominant and codominant beech trees in low levels. Most mature beech in the stand had full crowns and a few had light dieback. Light to moderate levels of beech scale were also collected in a hardwood stand on A Line Road in St. Joseph Twp.
- In North Bay District, low to moderate levels of beech scale were collected and observed on Legrou Lake Road near Arnstein.

Southern

- In Aylmer Guelph District, high populations of beech scale were observed on large diameter beech trees at a county forest stand on Old Dump Road near Langton in Norfolk County.
- In Kemptville Kingston District, high populations of beech scale were observed on semi-mature to mature beech trees on Crown land near Norcan Lake, in North Frontenac Twp.
- In Peterborough Bancroft District, high populations of beech scale were observed on various size classes of American beech in stands north of Madawaska off Major Lake Road and Aylen Lake Road in South Algonquin Twp.
- In Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge District, high populations of beech scale were collected on South Crane Lake Road in Conger Twp. Beech scale affected large diameter, codominant trees with some lower levels of scale insects observed on all other tree classes. In Bracebridge Resource Management Area, high populations of beech scale were present on dominant, codominant, and intermediate trees, primarily affecting large diameter trees. Severe beech scale affecting regeneration, understory, intermediate, and codominant beech was collected on Blind Bay Road in Carling. Moderate to severe populations of beech scale were collected on Clear Lake Road in Ardbeg.

Birch casebearer

Pest information

Common name:	Birch casebearer
Scientific name:	*Coleophora serratella* (L.)
Pest origin:	Invasive — native to Europe
Pest type:	Defoliator
Host species (Ontario 2025):	White birch, yellow birch, European black alder
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- Birch casebearer was first reported in North America in 1927.
- Consecutive years of severe defoliation by this insect can cause branch and twig mortality and, when outbreaks are severe, may kill the tree.
- This casebearer produces one generation per year.
- Its preferred host is white birch, but it also defoliates other birch and alder species.
- In 2025, birch casebearer was observed in Northeast and Southern regions.

Regional summary

Northeast

- In Sudbury District, severe birch casebearer defoliation was collected on white birch on O'Neil Drive West in Garson. Moderate defoliation was observed on Granite Ridge Trail in Killarney Provincial Park, Hwy 528A in Scollard Twp, at the Terry Fox Sports Complex in the City of Sudbury, A.Y. Jackson Lookout Trail in Dowling, and Sucker Creek Landing in Haddo Twp. Light birch casebearer defoliation on white birch was collected along Kukagami Lake Road in Street Twp and Estaire Road in Burwash Twp.
- In Sault Ste. Marie Blind River District, moderate birch casebearer defoliation was observed on white birch along Pipeline Road west of Elliot Lake and collected from white birch along Camp Dours Road in St. Joseph Twp. Light to moderate defoliation affecting white birch was observed on Dunlop Shores Road in Elliot Lake. Light defoliation was also observed on yellow birch along Dunlop Shores Road. Light defoliation was observed on

most white birch of all sizes in the Wharncliffe area, along the east end of Hwy 546 and on Milliken Mine Road, Stanrock Road, and Rossmere Lake Road in Elliot Lake. Additionally, trace defoliation on white birch was collected on Ranger Lake Road, in Curtis Twp.

Southern

- In Pembroke District, moderate white birch defoliation was collected along Bulger Road, in Wilberforce Twp.
- In Peterborough Bancroft District, light birch casebearer defoliation was recorded for a second consecutive year on mature European black alder trees along County Road 10 near Campbellcroft in Northumberland County. Light birch casebearer defoliation was also recorded on young white birch trees on Youngs Point Road near Lakefield.
- In Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge District, light birch casebearer defoliation was reported on white birch along Loop Road (County Road 648) and Dyno Road (County Road 48) near Cardiff in Haliburton County. Light birch casebearer defoliation was also observed on white birch along Hwy 124 at a picnic area between South River and Sundridge, and North Pickerel Road in Mowat Twp.

Birch leafminer complex

Pest information

Common name:	Birch leafminer complex
Scientific name:	*Heterarthrus nemoratus* (Fall.), *Fenusella nana* (Klug), *Fenusa pusilla* (Lep.)
Pest origin:	Invasive — native to Europe
Pest type:	Defoliator
Host species (Ontario 2025):	White birch
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- Birch leafminer complex is a group of similar insects that mine birch foliage, including but not limited to:
  - *Heterarthrus nemoratus* (Fall.)
  - *Fenusella nana* (Klug)
  - *Fenusa pusilla* (Lep.)
- Birch leafminer was first introduced from Europe and recorded in Ontario in the early 20th century.
- In Canada, birch leafminer occurs in all provinces and territories except Nunavut.
- The number of generations differs between species but varies from one to four per year.
- Birch leafminer damage is most severe on open grown white birch.
- In 2025, birch leafminer was reported in Northeast and Southern regions.

Regional summary

Northeast

- In Sault Ste. Marie Blind River District, light to moderate birch leafminer defoliation was observed in several areas affecting white birch of all canopy classes. Moderate defoliation was observed on most white birch in Searchmont, Cloudslee, Ansonia, Plummer Additional, Sault Ste. Marie on Connor Road, north of Sault Ste. Marie on Robertson Lake Road, on Hwy 546 in Iron Bridge, along the southern part of Hwy 108, and along the eastern part of Hwy 638. Light to moderate defoliation was observed in Prince Twp, Fort Creek Conservation Area, throughout Echo Bay, St. Joseph Island, on Shaw Road north of Little Rapids, and on Ranger Lake Road. Light

birch casebearer defoliation was observed at the north end of Gordon Lake Road, on Christina Mine Road north of Searchmont, on 5th line in Sault Ste. Marie, and along Hwy 129.

Southern

- In Alymer Guelph District, moderate to severe birch leafminer defoliation on a cluster of young white birch trees was observed along the edge of a forest at Bond Tract on Concession Road 1 in Puslinch Twp.

Diplodia blight

Pest information

Common name:	Diplodia blight
Scientific name:	*Diplodia sapinea* (Fr.) P. Karst
Pest origin:	Native to North America
Pest type:	Disease
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Red pine
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- Diplodia blight (formerly Sphaeropsis tip blight) is a disease of conifers, causing major damage to two- and three-needle pine species.
- In Canada, although usually present at low levels in healthy stands of native trees, the disease can cause severe damage and even lead to mortality in trees stressed by environmental factors such as drought, hail damage, or other pests.
- Trees of all ages are affected by shoot dieback, dead needles, blighted cones, and cankers.
- In 2025, diplodia blight was reported in Northeast Region.

Regional summary

Northeast

- In North Bay District, diplodia blight caused severe damage and mortality to understory and overstory mature red pine. On Hawksbury Road and Klock's Road, understory trees had deformed crowns, branch death, resinous cankers on stem and branches, and sapwood stain. The overstory trees had crown dieback, with red and dying needles.

Eastern tent caterpillar

Pest information

Common name:	Eastern tent caterpillar
Scientific name:	*Malacosoma americanum* (F.)
Pest origin:	Native to North America
Pest type:	Defoliator
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Choke cherry, pin cherry, black cherry, largetooth aspen
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- Eastern tent caterpillar populations fluctuate annually.
- Larvae usually defoliate cherry and apple trees and occasionally mature black cherry.
- It is not considered a major pest, though nests can be unsightly.
- Defoliation by eastern tent caterpillar causes little permanent damage to the host tree.
- In 2025, localized eastern tent caterpillar populations were reported in Northeast and Southern regions.

Regional summary

Northeast

- In Sudbury District, severe eastern tent caterpillar defoliation was observed in Scollard Twp along Hwy 528A, Nares Inlet Road in Harrison Twp, and O'Neil Drive West in Garson. Moderate defoliation was also observed along Jacklin Road in Baldwin Twp and Hwy 540A near Gore Bay on Manitoulin Island.
- In Sault Ste. Marie Blind River District, moderate to severe eastern tent caterpillar defoliation was collected on roadside choke cherry along Mississagi Bay Road in Thompson Twp and on I-line Road in St. Joseph Twp. Most roadside choke cherry were entirely defoliated in the northern part of St. Joseph Island. Additional moderate to severe defoliation was observed on Lakeview Road and Government Road in Laird, on Centre Line Road between Bruce Mines and Leeburn, on Gordon Lake Road in Johnson Twp, and on Boundary Road, Walker Road, McCreights Road and Pine Ridge Road in Thessalon Twp. In most areas, full trees were defoliated with multiple

nests per tree. Light defoliation was observed on Shaw Road in Kirkwood Twp, where a few trees were affected with one to two nests each and along Hwy 546 where single nests were noted intermittently on roadside pin cherry.

Southern

- In Aurora Midhurst Owen Sound District, severe eastern tent caterpillar defoliation affected choke cherry along Sunset Drive and Concession Road 10 in Kincardine, at Drury Tract in Oro-Medonte Twp, and at the intersection of 1st Line East and Sideroad 10 in Mulmur Twp. In Simcoe County, severe defoliation was reported at Hendrie Tract along Hendrie Road in Springwater Twp affecting choke cherry and black cherry. Moderate to severe choke cherry defoliation was reported at Mountsberg Conservation Area and Terra Cotta Conservation Area in Halton Region. Moderate choke cherry defoliation was reported at Schmidt Lake Conservation Area in Brockton. In Grey County, moderate eastern tent caterpillar defoliation was reported on choke cherry along Hamill Road in Chatsworth Twp and along Hwy 1 near Oxenden in Georgian Bluffs Twp. Light defoliation was reported intermittently on choke cherry along Huron Road in South Bruce Twp. Trace eastern tent caterpillar defoliation was reported on choke cherry at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area in Bradford West Gwillimbury.
- In Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge District, severe eastern tent caterpillar defoliation was observed along Nipissing Road South in Spence Twp near Magnetawan, and along Hwy 118 in Christie and Monteith townships. Moderate to severe defoliation was observed along Hwy 124 in Chapman, Croft, Hagerman, McKeller, and McDougall townships, and along Hwy 400 in Gibson Twp affecting pin cherry. Moderate defoliation was also observed sporadically along Hwy 124 from Sundridge to Parry Sound, Mowat Twp, along Hwy 529, Armour Twp near Katrine, and in Baxter Twp along Hwy 400. Clusters of moderate pin cherry defoliation were observed in wetland and marsh areas along Midlothian Road between Magnetawan and Burk's Falls. Light defoliation was observed along Forestry Road near Trout Creek, along Hwy 64, and along Hwy 529 between Britt and Pointe au Baril. Light defoliation was also observed on Tyne Lake Road in Laurier Twp.
- In Kemptville Kingston District, light eastern tent caterpillar defoliation of largetooth aspen and choke cherry was observed along Oak Bluffs Road, south of Crow Lake in South Frontenac Twp.

Elm zigzag sawfly

Pest information

Common name:	Elm zigzag sawfly
Scientific name:	*Aproceros leucopoda* Takeuchi
Pest origin:	Invasive — native to Asia
Pest type:	Defoliator
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Siberian elm, white elm
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency confirmed elm zigzag sawfly presence in Quebec in 2020. This detection was the first confirmed record of the pest in North America. It has since been reported in areas of Quebec and southern Ontario.
- Elm zigzag sawfly is native to parts of China and Japan, but has established in other parts of Asia, Europe, and North America.
- Elm zigzag sawfly gets its name from the characteristic zigzag pattern left by larvae as they feed on elm leaves. It can cause severe defoliation of elm trees.
- The insect reproduces asexually with up to six generations per year in the world's temperate regions. Adult sawflies are strong fliers, covering up to 90 km per year.
- In 2025, elm zigzag sawfly was detected during ground surveys throughout Southern Region.

Regional summary

Southern

- In Aurora Midhurst Owen Sound District, severe elm zigzag sawfly defoliation was reported on white elm at Zephyr Tract in East Gwillimbury in York Region. Moderate to severe elm zigzag sawfly defoliation was observed at Schmidt Lake Conservation Area in Bruce County and on young white elm at Luther Marsh Wildlife Management Area in Grand Valley along Sideroad 21 and 22.
- In Aylmer Guelph District, light elm zigzag sawfly defoliation was observed on fringe white elm at Cayuga Seed Orchard on Haldimand Road 20, west of Dunnville in Haldimand County. Trace defoliation of understory white

elm was observed at Harris/Harris/Floyd Tract in Norfolk County, Sudden Regional Forest in Waterloo Region near Beke Road access, and Vance Tract in Wellington County. Trace defoliation of young elm and elm zigzag sawfly pupae were reported along a trail at Fleming Tract in Mapleton Twp. In Oxford County, trace defoliation of several young, open-grown white elm was recorded at WL Dickson Arboretum near Woodstock. In Middlesex County, trace defoliation of regenerating white elm was observed at Five Points Forest near Dorchester. Trace defoliation on two young white elm was reported at Ojibway Tom Joy Woods Park along a trail in Windsor and on one young elm tree along the Dalewood North Trail in Elgin County.

- In Kemptville Kingston District, moderate elm zigzag sawfly defoliation was reported near Carsonby, southwest of Manotick where multiple generations of the insect were observed on white elm trees. In United Counties of Prescott and Russell, light elm zigzag sawfly defoliation was detected at various locations including areas south of Bourget in Larose Forest and around Marionville. In United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry, light elm zigzag defoliation was recorded in areas northwest of Cornwall near Northfield. In United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, light defoliation was observed along Keyes Road, west of Landsdowne, and along the Thousand Islands Parkway.
- In Pembroke District, light elm zigzag sawfly defoliation was observed on white elm at Foresters Falls in Whitewater Region in Renfrew County. Elm zigzag sawfly populations in this area were low and defoliation was undetectable until later in the summer. Light elm zigzag sawfly defoliation was observed and larvae collected on Grants Settlement Road in Cobden.
- In Peterborough Bancroft District, a moderate elm zigzag sawfly population, causing trace defoliation, was recorded on Siberian elm and white elm on the edge of an agricultural field on Goodfellow Road in the Municipality of Brighton. In Prince Edward County, trace elm zigzag sawfly defoliation was recorded on a mature white elm tree on County Road 4 in Gilbert Mills.
- In Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge District, light elm zigzag sawfly defoliation was collected along Minten's Lane in Port Severn.

Elongate hemlock scale

Pest information

Common name:	Elongate hemlock scale
Scientific name:	*Fiorinia externa* Ferris
Pest origin:	Invasive — native to Asia
Pest type:	Scale insect
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Eastern hemlock
Infestation area:	Localized

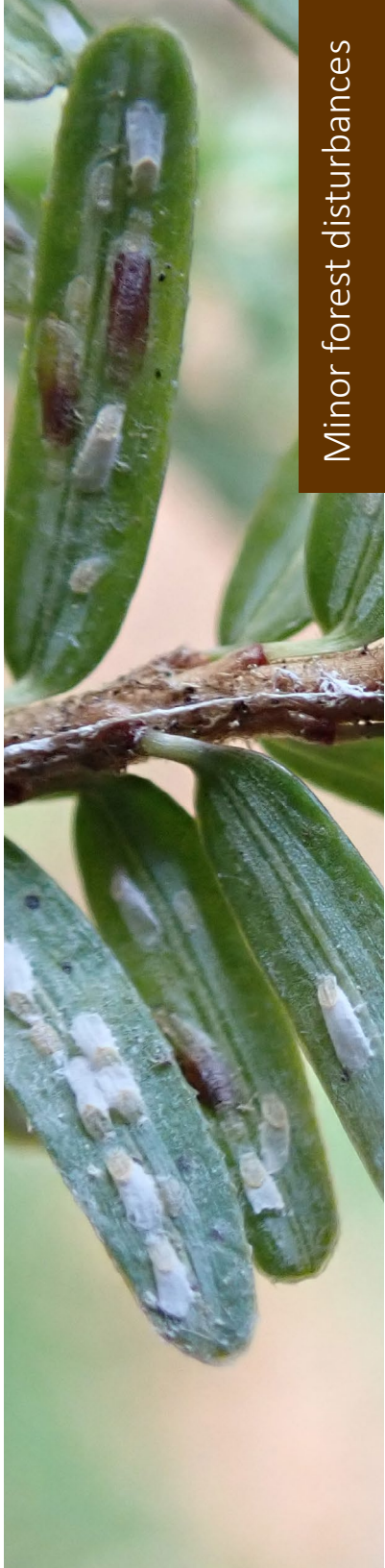
Provincial key facts

- This insect was accidentally introduced to North America around the start of the 20th century with the first detection in New York City in 1908.
- It is an armoured scale insect that primarily feeds on eastern hemlock in North America, but can infest spruce, cedar, pine, fir, and yew species.
- Elongate hemlock scale insects are commonly found on the underside of hemlock needles and damage host trees by inserting their piercing mouthpart into needles and feeding on water and nutrients. This feeding injury causes needle chlorosis and premature needle drop, reducing the overall health of infested trees, and allowing for successful attacks by other pests and secondary organisms.
- In 2025, elongate hemlock scale was reported in Southern Region.

Regional summary

Southern

- In Aylmer Guelph District, high numbers of elongate hemlock scale were observed on intermediate eastern hemlock at Beamer Memorial Conservation Area in Grimsby. This scale insect was first reported at this location in 2023, with minimal damage recorded. In 2025, scale abundance remained high and damage to infested trees remained minimal. In Norfolk County, trace to low level populations of elongate hemlock scale were observed on hemlock trees of all age and canopy classes south of Vittoria at Fisher Tract, but damage to infested trees was minimal.



Trend analysis/outlook/issues

With recent detections of hemlock woolly adelgid in areas of southern Ontario, elongate hemlock scale may be of interest because it could contribute to reduce overall hemlock tree health. Reports from some U.S. states indicate the simultaneous coexistence of elongate hemlock scale and hemlock woolly adelgid populations on hemlock trees.

European pine sawfly

Pest information

Common name:	European pine sawfly
Scientific name:	*Neodiprion sertifer* (Geoffroy)
Pest origin:	Invasive — native to Eurasia
Pest type:	Defoliator
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Scots pine
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- The first North American record of European pine sawfly is from 1925 in New Jersey (USA); however, it was not recognized as an introduced species until 1937. In 1939, the first Canadian detection of the European pine sawfly was made in Windsor, Ontario.
- This introduced pest prefers to feed on Scots pine, but can also feed on red, jack, and mugho pine in Ontario. Defoliation by European pine sawfly has been greatest in pine plantations and on isolated ornamental and urban trees, however, infestations are occasional and localized.
- In 2025, European pine sawfly defoliation was reported in one Southern Region district.

Regional summary

Southern

- In Aylmer Guelph District, European pine sawfly larvae caused moderate to severe defoliation of a cluster of young, open-grown Scots pine in Turkey Point Provincial Park.

Evergreen bagworm

Pest information

Common name:	Evergreen bagworm
Scientific name:	*Thyridopteryx ephemeraeformis* (Haworth)
Pest origin:	Native to North America
Pest type:	Defoliator
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Willow species
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- Evergreen bagworm is widely distributed in the eastern United States but only occasionally observed in Ontario, where it is found predominantly in urban areas.
- This insect feeds primarily on cedar and juniper in Ontario.
- In 2025, it was reported in Southern Region.

Regional summary

Southern

- In Aylmer Guelph District, trace to light evergreen bagworm defoliation was recorded on open-grown willows in a naturalized area along a hydro corridor adjacent to Brunet Park in La Salle. Enshrouded larvae were observed on willow trees of all ages, ranging from seedlings to semi-mature, often with several larvae per branch.

Trend analysis/outlook/issues

Evergreen bagworm populations were first recorded in Windsor around 2008 when it was observed feeding on ornamental arborvitae and honey locust in several locations across the city. Populations continued to persist and have since expanded to other parts of Windsor and beyond in subsequent years.

Fall cankerworm

Pest information

Common name:	Fall cankerworm
Scientific name:	*Alsophila pometaria* (Harris)
Pest origin:	Native to North America
Pest type:	Defoliator
Host species (Ontario 2025):	American beech, blue beech, sugar maple, white ash, basswood, red oak, Manitoba maple, black walnut, witch-hazel
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- Fall cankerworm is an early season defoliator of hardwood trees that can reach epidemic levels throughout its range in North America.
- The distribution of this native pest is thought to coincide with the range of basswood in Ontario.
- This pest has one generation per year.
- In North America, fall cankerworm has an outbreak cycle with large populations present for two to three years followed by sharp population declines for five to eight years.
- The most recent fall cankerworm outbreak in Ontario occurred between 2016 and 2019, with areas of defoliation aerially mapped across Southern Region in 2016, 2017, and 2018.
- In 2025, fall cankerworm localized defoliation was recorded in several areas in Southern Region.

Regional summary

Southern

- In Aylmer Guelph District, fall cankerworm defoliation was observed in small, localized areas across the district. In Hamilton, moderate to severe defoliation was observed at McMaster Forest Nature Preserve, where green and black fall cankerworm larvae were recorded feeding alongside a smaller population of spongy moth larvae on basswood, American beech, white ash, black walnut, and witch-hazel. In Brant County, moderate to severe defoliation of open-grown Manitoba maple trees along Hwy 403 was recorded from Rest Acres Road (Hwy 24) to Jerseyville Road. In Norfolk County, moderate defoliation of understorey white ash, witch-hazel, white elm, oaks, and basswood was recorded west of Walsingham at Wilson Tract on Concession Road 4. In Hamilton,

light defoliation of red oak, American beech, and basswood was recorded in western sections of Dundas Valley Conservation Area. In Niagara Region, light defoliation of fringe sugar maple and basswood was observed at Short Hills Provincial Park along Cataract Road. In Norfolk County, trace to light defoliation was recoded on understory basswood and blue beech at Backus Woods, and trace defoliation of understory red oak, blue beech, and American beech was recorded at Norfolk County Forest #H2 on Old Dump Road. In Niagara Region, trace fall cankerworm defoliation of understory basswood, red oak, and American beech was reported at Beamer Memorial Conservation Area. In Middlesex County, trace fall cankerworm defoliation of understory basswood was recorded at Joany's Woods near Sylvan, and in Huron County on red oak and basswood trees growing along Pinery Line near Auburn. In Brant County, trace basswood and sugar maple defoliation was recorded at Apps Mills Conservation Area.

Fall webworm

Pest information

Common name:	Fall webworm
Scientific name:	*Hyphantria cunea* (Drury)
Pest origin:	Native to North America
Pest type:	Defoliator
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Variety of hardwood species
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- Fall webworm is one of the few native North American insects accidently introduced into Europe and Asia.
- Its effect on tree health is usually limited because defoliation occurs late in the growing season, but persistent infestation can cause branch and crown dieback.
- In Canada, only one generation of fall webworm occurs per year, whereas two will occur in warmer climates.
- High populations of this pest often last only two to three years, making associated tree mortality unlikely.
- In 2025, fall webworm was reported in Northeast and Southern regions.

Regional summary

Northeast

- In North Bay District, major areas of severe fall webworm defoliation were observed on black ash on Hwy 17 near Mosquito Creek heading west to Sturgeon Falls, Hwy 64 south of Musky Island Road near Lavigne, and west of Gormanville Road to Beaucage Park Road along the Lake Nipissing shoreline. Moderate fall webworm defoliation was observed along Hwy 64 near Redbridge, East Balsam Creek, Aumond Creek, and Klock's Road east of Mattawa along Hwy 17. In addition, light to moderate defoliation was observed along Hwy 17 east from North Bay to Corbeil and from Hwy 11 south of North Bay to Powassan. Sporadic areas of light defoliation were observed along Sand Dam Road north of North Bay, Hwy 575 north of Verner, and Hwy 539 north of Warren.
- In Sudbury District, severe fall webworm defoliation was observed throughout Merritt Twp along Hwy 6, Hopkins Hill Road and Old Webbwood Road, and along Hwy 64 in Haddo Twp. Moderate defoliation was observed on Hwy 528A in Scollard Twp and along Hwy 17 in Hagar and Awrey townships. Light fall webworm defoliation was observed along Jacklin Road near Espanola, Charcoal Road in Moses Twp, Hwy 637 into

Killarney, and Wolseley Bay Road. Light defoliation was observed in residential areas along Errington Avenue in Chelmsford and Vermillion Lake Road in Dowling. One nest causing light defoliation was collected on bur oak on Airport Road near Gore Bay.

- In Sault Ste. Marie Blind River District, light fall webworm defoliation was observed on smaller fringe and open-grown trees of various species. The largest area of continuous light defoliation was observed on Hwy 17, east of Noonday Road, on several pin cherry and trembling aspen. Light defoliation was collected on white birch on McCreights Road and willow on Shaw Road in Kirkwood Twp. Light defoliation was observed on elm and white birch on Camp Dours Road and on alder on I-line Road in St. Joseph Twp, and Hwy 532 north of Searchmont. Light trembling aspen and willow defoliation was observed along Hwy 17 and Hwy 17B in Garden River and along Lakeview Road in Laird Twp. Additional light defoliation was reported on ash along Havilland Shores Drive, Centre Line Road in Plummer Twp, and Plummer Road in Plummer Additional Twp. Light defoliation was also recorded on pin cherry along Ranger Lake Road and Garden Lake Road.

Southern

- In Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge District, severe fall webworm defoliation was observed throughout Killbear Provincial Park. Moderate defoliation was observed between Dunchurch and Sunny Slope along Hwy 124, along Hwy 69 in Mowat Twp, and Hwy 47 in Monck Twp. Light to moderate defoliation was observed along Hwy 118, Butter & Egg Road, Hwy 47 to Falkenburg Station, Healy Lake Road, Lake Joseph Road, and in McDougall Twp. Light defoliation was observed intermittently along Hwy 522, Hwy 124 near Ahmic Harbour, Hwy 400, Hwy 529 in Harrison Twp, Hwy 11, Hwy 17, Hwy 69 from Hwy 637 to Pointe au Baril, and from Bunny Trail to Lorimer Lake Road in East Burpee Twp.
- In Aylmer Guelph District, moderate to severe fall webworm defoliation and webbing covering open-grown and forest fringe black walnut, black cherry, and white ash trees were observed along Oxford Road 13 from Otterville Road in Springford to Mall Road, in Oxford County. Moderate to severe defoliation of black walnut and bitternut hickory were recorded along Hwy 401 between Oxford County Road 2 in Woodstock and Oxford County Road 29 near Drumbo. In Norfolk County, moderate to severe fall webworm defoliation and webbing were observed affecting forest fringe and open-grown black cherry, bitternut hickory, black walnut, and white ash along Hwy 24 from Norfolk County Road 23 to Norfolk County Road 10. In Elgin County, light fall webworm defoliation and a low number of webbed nests were observed on black walnut, bitternut hickory, and black cherry of all age classes at Southwold Earthworks National Historic Site near Iona. Intermittent areas of light fall webworm defoliation of white mulberry, red oak, eastern cottonwood, and black walnut were recorded along Hwy 401 between Chatham and West Elgin, and along Hwy 3 from Wallacetown to the Elgin County/Chatham-Kent boundary. In Middlesex County, light fall webworm defoliation and webbing were recorded on black walnut and bitternut hickory through the Skunks Misery forest complex, near Wardsville. In Wellington County, light fall webworm defoliation was observed on young white elm, black cherry, and white ash trees at Fleming Tract in Mapleton Twp.

Greenstriped mapleworm

Pest information

Common name:	Greenstriped mapleworm
Scientific name:	*Dryocampa rubicunda* (F.)
Pest origin:	Native to North America
Pest type:	Defoliator
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Red maple
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- Greenstriped mapleworm feeds primarily on red and sugar maple.
- Larvae feed on the underside of leaves and consume most of the leaf tissue other than the mid rib and larger veins.
- Severe infestations may decrease growth, cause crown dieback, and reduce the sap quality of sugar maple.
- In 2025, greenstriped mapleworm caused localized severe defoliation in Northwest and Southern regions.

Regional summary

Northwest

- In Dryden Fort Frances Atikokan District, severe greenstriped mapleworm defoliation was observed throughout the district with red maple leaves consumed down to the leaf veins and petioles. Severe red maple defoliation was observed along Hwy 11 from Quetico Centre, west to Fort Frances, and along Hwy 502 towards Dryden. Substantial greenstriped maple defoliation was reported on red maple along Manomin Road off Hwy 615 and Surtees Road.

Southern

- In Pembroke District, a localized area of severe greenstriped mapleworm defoliation was observed at Petawawa Research Forest in Laurentian Hills in Renfrew County, affecting intermediate and regenerating red maple in a semi-mature jack pine stand.

Maine leaf beetle

Pest information

Common name:	Maine leaf beetle
Scientific name:	*Chrysomela mainensis* Bechyné
Pest origin:	Native to North America
Pest type:	Defoliator
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Alder spp.
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- Native to North America, Maine leaf beetle is a member of the leaf beetle family which are known to feed primarily on willow, poplar, and alder.
- With about 400,000 known species of beetles, they are one of the most diverse groups of organisms on the planet.
- In 2025, Maine leaf beetle was reported in Northwest Region.

Regional summary

Northwest

- In Dryden Fort Frances Atikokan District, Maine leaf beetle larvae caused severe defoliation of several patches of alder at the northern end of Manion Lake Road. Larvae were observed feeding on foliage of affected alders, leaving only leaf veins and petioles.

Maple-basswood leafroller

Pest information

Common name:	Maple-basswood leafroller
Scientific name:	*Cenopis pettitana* (Rob.)
Pest origin:	Native to North America
Pest type:	Defoliator
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Red maple
Infestation area:	Localized

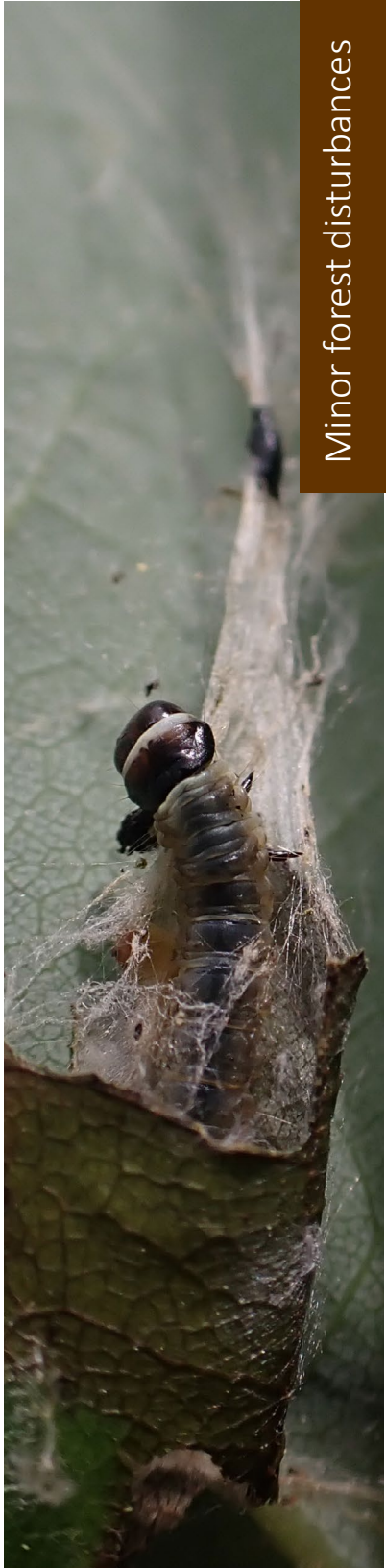
Provincial key facts

- Maple-basswood leafroller occurs in southeastern Canada, and primarily feeds on various hardwoods, especially basswood and maples.
- Historically, large-scale epidemics have been reported in Ontario and Quebec.
- Larvae loosely roll host leaves together to form shelters in which they rest and pupate in. Feeding occurs outside these shelters on nearby foliage.
- In 2025, maple-basswood leafroller was reported in two districts in Southern Region.

Regional summary

Southern

- In Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge District, a large maple-basswood leafroller population was recorded in Haliburton County. In Silent Lake Provincial Park, trace to moderate defoliation was observed on red maple throughout the park. Moderate defoliation affecting red maples was also recorded intermittently along Hwy 28 from Silent Lake Provincial Park to Paudash Lake.
- In Peterborough Bancroft District, moderate maple-basswood leafroller defoliation of red maple was observed intermittently along Hwy 28 from Paudash Lake to Bancroft, and in Churchill Park along the York River in Bancroft.



Maple webworm

Pest information

Common name:	Maple webworm
Scientific name:	*Pococera asperatella* Clemens
Pest origin:	Native to North America
Pest type:	Defoliator
Host species (Ontario 2025):	American beech, striped maple, sugar maple, yellow birch
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- Provincial distribution of maple webworm is from southern Ontario to North Bay.
- Natural parasites and predators of maple webworm limit populations from reaching outbreak levels.
- Maple webworm was not considered significant until the 1950s when it was found to contribute to the development of maple blight, which killed thousands of sugar maples in Wisconsin. This development has not occurred in Ontario.
- In Southern Region, maple webworm occurrences were reported in increasing numbers from 2016 to 2018 in Aylmer and Guelph districts; and widespread defoliation was reported from 2011 to 2013 in Midhurst District.
- In 2025, maple webworm was observed in Southern Region.

Regional summary

Southern

- In Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge District, severe defoliation caused by maple webworm was observed on Chemical Road in South River. Maple webworm was reported on all hardwood species in the stand, including American beech, striped maple, sugar maple, and yellow birch. All tree classes and diameter sizes were affected, with striped maple being the least defoliated of all the tree species. Moderate defoliation was also observed along Pevensey Road in Sundridge.
- In Aylmer Guelph District, maple webworm caused moderate to severe defoliation of understory sugar maple and American beech trees at Spooky Hollow Nature Sanctuary and Fishers Glen Conservation Area near Fishers Glen in Norfolk County.

Mimosa webworm

Pest information

Common name:	Mimosa webworm
Scientific name:	*Homadaula anisocentra* Meyr
Pest origin:	Invasive — native to China
Pest type:	Defoliator
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Honey locust
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- The first North American detection of mimosa webworm was recorded in the United States in 1940, when it was introduced from China.
- Honey locust is the preferred host of this pest in North America, particularly the thornless cultivars.
- In 2025, mimosa webworm defoliation was observed in one district in Southern Region.

Regional summary

Southern

- In Aylmer Guelph District, mimosa webworm defoliation was observed on many open-grown honey locust age classes at several locations in Norfolk County. Severe defoliation was recorded intermittently along Norfolk County Road 60 at the intersection of East Quarter Line Road, and along Hwy 59 between Concession Road 3 and Concession Road 4 near Walsingham. Moderate to severe defoliation of open-grown honey locust was also observed east of Big Otter Creek along Hwy 3 near Tillsonburg.

Needle cast

Pest information

Common name:	Needle cast
Scientific name:	*Lophodermium spp., Lophophacidium sp.* (Phacidiaceae), *Hendersonia pinicola* Wehm.
Pest origin:	Native to North America
Pest type:	Foliar disease
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Eastern white pine
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- Needle casts are fungal diseases that affect needle-bearing trees of all age classes but are most damaging to seedlings and young trees.
- As with many fungal diseases, needle casts flourish in years with humid and warm spring conditions.
- Multiple years of needle cast infection can reduce tree vigour and growth.
- In 2025, reported symptoms on eastern white pine included yellowing and browning of previous years' needles, premature needle drop, and crown thinning.
- In 2025, localized areas of needle cast damage were observed in Northeast Region.

Regional summary

Northeast

- In Sault Ste. Marie Blind River District, light to moderate needle cast damage was recorded on eastern white pine along Hwy 129 in Dagle Twp. Light needle cast damage was also observed on eastern white pine in Lewis Twp south of Elliot Lake. In both areas, *Lophodermium spp.* and *Lophophacidium dooksii* were the causal pathogens.

Orangestriped oakworm

Pest information

Common name:	Orangestriped oakworm
Scientific name:	*Anisota senatoria* (J.E. Smith)
Pest origins:	Native to North America
Pest type:	Defoliator
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Red oak
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- Orangestriped oakworm is a native silkmoth found in much of eastern North America and feeds on foliage of oak trees.
- Outbreaks and major defoliation occur infrequently in parts of southern Canada.
- Orangestriped oakworm is considered a late season defoliator that causes little damage to host trees since feeding occurs late in the growing season. Historically, outbreaks are known to occur across eastern North America.
- In 2025, orangestriped oakworm defoliation was recorded in Southern Region.

Regional summary

Southern

- In Aylmer Guelph District, severe orangestriped oakworm defoliation was observed near Bothwell at the boundary between Chatham-Kent and Southwest Middlesex Twp. In late August, late instar larvae were observed causing 75–100% defoliation of young, open-grown red oak trees along Clachan Road near the Centreville Drive junction.

Pine false webworm

Pest information

Common name:	Pine false webworm
Scientific name:	*Acantholyda erythrocephala* (L.)
Pest origins:	Invasive — native to Europe and Asia
Pest type:	Defoliator
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Eastern white pine
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- First collected in Ontario in 1961, pine false webworm was initially a pest of young pine plantations.
- Since 1993, severe defoliation has been recorded on semi-mature and mature pine near Peterborough and Simcoe.
- Infestation peaked in 1997, with almost 9000 ha of moderate to severe defoliation.
- In 2025, pine false webworm was observed in Northeast Region.

Regional summary

Northeast

- In Sault Ste. Marie Blind River District, light to moderate pine false webworm defoliation was recorded in several areas. Moderate defoliation on a single eastern white pine and light defoliation on several other white pine was observed along Hwy 639 near Mississagi Provincial Park. Light to moderate defoliation was recorded on eastern white pine on Garside Road and Milford Haven Road in St. Joseph Twp, where only a few trees were affected. Light defoliation was collected on Shaw Road in Kirkwood Twp. About 15 to 20 eastern white pine were affected along the south end of Shaw Road. Additional light defoliation was observed along a snowmobile trail in Lewis Twp south of Elliot Lake, the east end of Hwy 546, Hwy 129 in Dagle Twp, in Hiawatha Highlands Conservation Area in Sault Ste. Marie, and the south end of Whitman Dam Road near Goulais River Provincial Park. Additionally, trace defoliation was recorded on Christina Mine Road in Gaudette Twp.
- In Sudbury District, light pine false webworm defoliation was observed on eastern white pine along Hwy 553 north of Chutes Provincial Park.
- In North Bay District, light pine false webworm defoliation was collected on a single white pine on Porcupine Creek Road in Clarkson Twp.

Pine tortoise scale

Pest information

Common name:	Pine tortoise scale
Scientific name:	*Toumeyella parvicornis* (Ckll.)
Pest origins:	Native to North America
Pest type:	Sucking insect
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Jack pine
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- Pine tortoise scale's primary host is Jack pine but can be found feeding on several other pine species including Scots, Austrian, and red pine.
- In severely infested stands, seedlings and young saplings suffer more damage than pole sized trees, and heavy feeding can cause branch or tree mortality.
- Fertilized females secrete a honeydew that can spread over twigs and needles, supporting the growth of a sooty black fungus called sooty mold.
- In 2025, localized pine tortoise scale was reported in Northeast Region.

Regional summary

Northeast

- In Chapleau Wawa District, severe pine tortoise scale damage was collected about 22 km down Island Lake Road, west of Hwy 129 in Chappise Twp. Light pine tortoise scale damage was also collected in a tree improvement area, located on Island Lake Road. Insects were found in clusters, attached to the main stem of young jack pine trees and saplings.
- In North Bay District, light pine tortoise scale damage was collected on Pioneer Road in Boulter Twp.
- In Sudbury District, light pine tortoise scale damage collected from West Branch Road in Weeks Twp, Munster Road in Munster Twp, and Dunbar Road North in Dunbar Twp.

Trend analysis/outlook/issues

MNR forest health staff assisted in collecting entomological material for an international request from the Council for Agricultural Research and Economics – Research Centre for Plant Protection and Certification (CREA-DC) based in Italy for pine tortoise scale. The study is focused on *Toumeyella parvicornis* (Ckll.), an invasive species to Italy, with the goal of creating a phylogeographical reconstruction of the species and developing a climate model to predict potential distribution in Europe.

Septoria leaf spot

Pest information

Common name:	Septoria leaf spot
Scientific name:	*Sphaerulina betulae* (Pass.) Quaedvl., Verkley & Crous, *Sphaerulina populicola* (Peck) Quaedvlieg, Verkley & Crous, *Sphaerulina musiva* (Peck) Quaedvl., Verkley & Crous
Pest origins:	Native to North America
Pest type:	Foliar disease
Host species (Ontario 2025):	White birch, balsam poplar, eastern cottonwood
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- Septoria leaf spot is a common fungal disease of white birch and poplar species.
- This disease commonly infects leaves but can also cause branch and main stem cankers, particularly on hybrid poplar.
- Leaf diseases are normally more prevalent in wet and humid weather. Fallen leaves re-infect new leaves the following year.
- After repeated severe infections, trees may lose vigour and become more susceptible to other pests and pathogens.
- In 2025, septoria leaf spot was observed in Northeast and Southern regions.

Regional summary

Northeast

- In Chapleau Wawa District, septoria leaf spot damage ranged in severity from trace to severe on balsam poplar of all age classes. Severe septoria leaf spot damage was observed off Hwy 17, north of Obatanga Provincial Park in Alanen Twp. Light foliar damage was observed south of Hornepayne in Larkin, Beaton, and Goulay townships, along Hwy 631, and several side roads off Hwy 631. Scattered areas of light foliar damage were recorded in White Lake Provincial Park and southeast of Saniga Lake along Hwy 17. Trace foliar damage was observed north of Kwinkwaga Ground Moraine Uplands Conservation Reserve and along Road 700.
- In Sudbury District, moderate to severe septoria leaf spot damage was recorded on white birch along Anderston Lake Road near Espanola. Light septoria leaf spot damage was observed along Hwy 69 affecting

regeneration and sapling white birch. Light damage was recorded along Hwy 84, West Branch Road, Charcoal Road, Hwy 144, 700 Road, Munster Road, Dunbar Road North, and along Hwy 17 near McKerrow.

Southern

- In Pembroke District, moderate to severe septoria leaf spot damage was observed affecting balsam poplar along Red Rock Road near Killaloe. Moderate to severe foliar damage was also recorded along Constant Lake Road between Barron Canyon Road and Balaclava. At both locations, open-grown balsam poplar trees of all age classes were affected.
- In Aylmer Guelph District, moderate to severe septoria leaf spot damage was recorded affecting all open-grown eastern cottonwood surveyed at Walter Devereaux Conservation Area, near Ridgetown in Chatham Kent.
- In Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge District, moderate septoria leaf spot damage was observed in Britt affecting an open-grown white birch.

Walnut caterpillar

Pest information

Common name:	Walnut caterpillar
Scientific name:	*Datana integerrima* G. & R.
Pest origins:	Native to North America
Pest type:	Defoliator
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Black walnut
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- Walnut caterpillar is a native insect commonly found in southern Ontario.
- Severe infestations occur infrequently and in small concentrated areas, with outbreaks persisting for less than two years.
- In 2025, localized areas of walnut caterpillar defoliation were observed in Southern Region.

Regional summary

Southern

- In Aylmer Guelph District, small localized areas of walnut caterpillar defoliation were recorded in the western part of the district. In Essex County, moderate to severe defoliation was observed at Kopegaron Woods Conservation Area, and light defoliation was recorded at Rowsom's Tilbury West Conservation Area. At both locations, defoliation was observed on young, open-grown black walnut trees. In Chatham-Kent, localized areas of moderate to severe defoliation were observed at Two Creeks Conservation Area, affecting young black walnut along a trail. Moderate to severe defoliation was also recorded on several open-grown black walnut trees at the entrance of C.M. Wilson Conservation Area near Chatham.

Western gall rust

Pest information

Common name:	Western gall rust
Scientific name:	*Endocronartium harknessii* (J. P. Moore) Y. Hirats.
Pest origins:	Native to North America
Pest type:	Disease
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Jack Pine, Scots pine, red pine
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- Western gall rust is common across Ontario, affecting two and three needled pines.
- It typically causes malformations, stunting, and aesthetic degradation of infected trees.
- It can be a major pest in nurseries and plantations.
- Branch galls may cause branch dieback and, galls on the main stem of trees less than 10 years old can result in tree mortality.
- Western gall rust can infect pines directly and does not require an alternate host to complete its life cycle.
- In 2025, western gall rust was reported in all regions.

Regional summary

Northwest

- In Kenora District, moderate to severe western gall rust damage was observed on open-grown young jack pine south of Conifer Lake, and at Dixie Lake rest stop on Highway 17 east of Kenora.
- In Red Lake Sioux Lookout District, moderate western gall rust was observed at the forested block on Pineridge Road on codominant trees. Light western gall rust damage was reported on young fringe jack pine, north of Red Lake on Pineridge Road.

Northeast

- In Sudbury District, western gall rust was observed in severe levels along Kukagami Lake Road in Street Twp and McLary Road in Hallam Twp. All sizes and canopy classes of jack pine were affected. Moderate levels of western gall rust were observed along Hwy 537 in Cleland Twp, Stinson Hydro Road, Jiggy Lake Road in Nairn Twp, Shaw

Road near French River, and along the A.Y. Jackson Lookout Trail in Dowling. Severe levels of pine oak gall rust on red oak (an alternative host for oak-pine gall rust) were observed along Hartley Bay Road in Allen Twp. Moderate levels of pine oak gall rust were also observed on Hwy 528A in Scollard Twp.

- In Sault Ste. Marie Blind River District, trace western gall rust was collected in Wells Twp. Several small (1–2 cm) galls were observed on red pine trees near the Rayner Dam, on the Mississagi River. Western gall rust on jack pine trees of all ages was also abundant in the township.

Southern

- In Minden Parry Sound Bracebridge District, moderate levels of western gall rust were observed on Nares Inlet Road in Harrison Twp. Light western gall rust was observed by Clear Lake in Mowat Twp. Severe levels of pine oak gall rust on red oak were observed along Nares Inlet Road in Harrison Twp. Moderate levels of pine oak gall rust were also observed along Riverside Drive in Henvey Twp.
- In Aurora Midhurst Owen Sound District, galls were collected from an open-grown Scots pine tree at Glen Major Forest near Pickering. Galls were observed affecting 20% of branches.

White pine blister rust

Pest information

Common name:	White pine blister rust
Scientific name:	*Cronartium ribicola* J. C. Fisch.
Pest origin:	Invasive — native to Asia and Europe
Pest type:	Rust disease
Host species (Ontario 2025):	White pine
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- This disease is relatively common throughout Ontario where Ribes spp. (the alternate host) occur near five needle pine.
- It causes branch dieback, reduces growth, and, if infection reaches the stem, eventually kills the tree.
- Porcupine damage can be present on trees with white pine blister rust since they are attracted to the sweet sap at the canker.
- In 2025, white pine blister rust was reported in Southern Region, and annual white pine blister rust surveys were completed in four white pine plantations in Northeast Region.

Regional summary

Northeast

- In Timmins Kirkland Lake District, annual white pine blister rust plantation surveys were completed in Evanturel, Eby, and Ingram townships. The Evanturel plantation had the highest occurrence of white pine blister rust on surveyed trees (29.3%) compared to Ingram (26.7%), and Eby (5.3%). Evanturel had the most scale (20%) compared to Ingram (9.3%) and Eby (0%). Ingram had the most porcupine damage (24%) compared to Evanturel (20%) and Eby (2%).
- In North Bay District, an annual white pine blister rust plantation survey was completed in Gurd Twp. White pine blister rust affected 29.3% of surveyed trees. Scale was found on 45.3% of surveyed trees. Porcupine damage was recorded on 17.3% of surveyed trees.

Southern

- In Peterborough Bancroft District, severe white pine blister rust damage was observed on young white pine trees near Hammond Road, east of Gunter Lake. Signs and symptoms included red flagging of branch needles, porcupine feeding damage, and active blisters with orange spores on branches and tree stems. In Alnwick Haldimand Twp, moderate white pine blister rust damage was recorded on young white pine tree branches along Pratt Road near Oak Heights.
- In Kemptville Kingston District, severe white pine blister rust damage was observed affecting a young white pine near Oak Bluffs Road in South Frontenac Twp near Crow Lake. Fungal fruiting bodies were also observed on nearby *Ribes* species.

Willow flea weevil

Pest information

Common name:	Willow flea weevil
Scientific name:	*Isochnus rufipes* (LeC.)
Pest origin:	Native to North America
Pest type:	Defoliator
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Trembling aspen, balsam poplar, willow spp.
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- Found in eastern Canada, willow flea weevil prefers willow trees but can be found on a variety of hardwoods.
- Willow flea weevil larvae mine in leaves from June to August. Adults feed on buds and unfolding leaves in early spring and again in late summer.
- During heavy infestations, leaves turn brown by late summer, giving them a scorched look.
- Consecutive years of severe defoliation may result in twig mortality.
- In Ontario, localized infestations of willow flea weevil occur occasionally.
- In 2025, willow flea weevil was reported in Northeast Region.

Regional summary

Northeast

- In Sault Ste. Marie Blind River District, moderate defoliation, affecting willow, balsam poplar, and trembling aspen, was recorded in Echo Bay along Hwy 17 and Hwy 638. Moderate defoliation on balsam poplar was observed along Gordon Lake Road and sporadically on poplar and willow throughout Johnson Twp. Moderate willow flea weevil defoliation was recorded on willow on Caribou Road and on balsam poplar on Plummer Road in Plummer Twp. Several black mines were visible, and leaves were curling and dropping early. Additional observations of moderate willow flea weevil defoliation on balsam poplar were made on Bar River Road East in Laird Twp, on 3rd Line and Black Road in Sault Ste. Marie, along Hwy 17 in Garden River, throughout Tarbutt Twp, Bruce Mines, and on Government Road in Desbarats. Light to moderate defoliation was observed on willow on Old Steel Road north of Blind River and light defoliation was observed on balsam poplar in Hiawatha Highlands

Conservation area in Sault Ste. Marie.

- In Sudbury District, moderate willow flea weevil defoliation was observed on willow in Gravelle Park off Vermillion Lake Road.
- In North Bay District, moderate willow flea weevil defoliation was recorded on willow on Porcupine Creek Road in Clarkson Twp.
- In Chapleau Wawa District, trace willow flea weevil defoliation was observed on willow in White Lake Provincial Park, along Hwy 17. Defoliation caused yellowing of the leaves with dark spots.

Willow leafblotch miner

Pest information

Common name:	Willow leafblotch miner
Scientific name:	*Phyllonorycter salicifoliella* (Cham.)
Pest origin:	Native to North America
Pest type:	Shoot borer
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Willow spp.
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- Most willow and some poplar species are susceptible.
- Leaves may be defoliated, but mortality is rare.
- Early instar larvae feed on the upper surface of leaves, while mature larvae mine between the upper and lower surface, giving leaves a blotched appearance.
- Necrotic, pale blotches appear on the upper surfaces of leaves in mid-summer but later appear reddish-brown.
- In 2025, localized willow leafblotch miner defoliation was reported in Northeast Region.

Regional summary

Northeast

- In Timmins Kirkland Lake District, moderate willow leafblotch miner defoliation was observed on Hwy 560 by Morin Village affecting most understory.
- In Sault Ste. Marie Blind River District, light willow leafblotch miner defoliation was observed along Hwy 129 affecting understory willow in a jack pine stand.
- In Sudbury District, trace amount of willow leafblotch miner was sampled on West Branch Road, in Moses Township.

Yellowheaded spruce sawfly

Pest information

Common name:	Yellowheaded spruce sawfly
Scientific name:	*Pikonema alaskensis* (Roh.)
Pest origin:	Native to North America
Pest type:	Defoliator
Host species (Ontario 2025):	Black spruce, white spruce, balsam fir
Infestation area:	Localized

Provincial key facts

- Yellowheaded spruce sawfly is a common pest in Ontario.
- It's a serious pest of open-grown trees, and plantations, such as Christmas tree plantations.
- This sawfly generally feeds on younger open-grown or roadside trees.
- Severe defoliation by this sawfly can kill branches or the entire tree; less severe defoliation can impede growth.
- In 2025, yellowheaded spruce sawfly was identified in all three regions.

Regional summary

Northwest

- In Kenora District, light yellowheaded spruce sawfly defoliation of white spruce was observed on April Road, east of Miller Lake.
- In Red Lake Sioux Lookout District, yellowheaded spruce sawfly was collected from a white spruce on Gleave Road, between Gleave Lake and Buffy Lake.

Northeast

- In Chapleau Wawa District, yellowheaded spruce sawfly caused severe defoliation of spruce seedlings and saplings along Hwy 17 in White River, at the entrance of North Crocker Lake Forward Attack Base. Larvae were recorded only on seedlings and saplings and fed from the top down and outside in, leaving no foliage behind.

Southern

- In Pembroke District, yellowheaded spruce sawfly was collected from a balsam fir on Billy Lake Road, south of the Ottawa River, in Maria Township.

Appendix 1: Ministry of Natural Resources districts