

Images of the Past

by F. Dan Dinelli

Back in the "good old days," trees were sought out in neighboring wood lots. All digging, handling and planting was done by hand. Note the size soil ball. Though it is difficult to assess, it looks as though the 12 to 1 ratio was used back then. The photos were taken by my grandfather, Frank Dinelli, at Northmoor Country Club, in the early 1930's.

The people in the tractor photo, left to right: Petun Bergoni, Joe Tondi, Al Tondi, Pete Dinelli, Lugi Biaggi and Frank Guidi. All of the men were related to Frank except Petun Bergoni. In fact, Frank Guidi was Frank's step-father.

P.S. You forgot one relationship in the **Bull Sheet**. Jerry Dinelli, Jr. (JD) worked with his family at Northmoor, Frank his grandfather and Jerry his father. Now Jerry is an Assistant at North Shore Country Club. My grandfather, Frank Dinelli, had his three sons working for him: Joe, Jerry and Jim Dinelli. All three became superintendents.



Pine Shoot Beetle Update

by James A. Fizzell*

Last fall a new pest of pines was identified in Illinois, the common pine shoot beetle. The first infestation of this insect in the U.S. was found in Ohio last summer. By fall infestations were found in western New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Indiana, in addition to those in Illinois and Ohio.

In Illinois the pests were found, not in nurseries, but in Christmas tree plantings in Kane and Will counties. Reports in the media resulted in a lot of alarm as to whether Christmas trees were safe to buy, and whether it will be safe to use pines as landscape plants.

Actually, the importance of this insect in pine plantings in northeastern Illinois has been blown up way out of proportion. None-the-less, as a precautionary measure partial quarantines were placed on pine Christmas trees and pines grown in

(continued on page 20)

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("Pine Shoot Beetle Update" continued)

nurseries in those two counties. (Quarantines are in effect in the other states as well.)

The pine shoot beetle is really a bark beetle. Feeding in the shoots of pine is by the adults, not the larvae. If you find a larva feeding in a pine shoot, it is not pine shoot beetle. Adult beetles are found in shoots from about the beginning of summer until fall. Affected shoots wilt and droop, eventually turning brown. If you split an infested shoot length-wise you will find that it is hollowed out, and you may find the tiny, black beetle.

Until symptoms appear, the only evidence of a beetle in the shoot will be a small hole 6 to 10 inches from the end of the shoot. There may be some sap or frass around the hole.

In fall, the adults move to the base of the tree in which they have been feeding and spend the winter hidden in crevasses in the bark. In spring, mated females search for recently dead or dying pine logs, stumps, etc., and tunnel beneath the bark laying eggs.

Eggs hatch into larvae which feed beneath the bark, pupate and emerge in about three months to start the cycle over again.

In the landscape, in nurseries, or in Christmas tree plantings, this pest should be relatively easy to keep under control. There are no chemicals that will successfully control it since so much of its life cycle is spent within the tree. However, since recently dead or dying pine is necessary for breeding, simple sanitation is all that is required to break the cycle.

Before the end of winter, prune dead wood from pines, and remove dead trees and stumps. Chip or burn. Burn pine fireplace logs or remove the bark by about the beginning of April.

The quarantine in force as of now prevents movement of pines out of, or through Kane and Will Counties unless each tree is inspected and certified to be free of the beetles. Nurseries may inspect and tag individual trees themselves; wholesalers can inspect and certify entire loads. (The conditions of the quarantines in the other states may be quite different). It is rare that more than a few shoots on a given tree will be affected by the beetles. If an infested shoot is located, it is a simple matter to clip it off and dispose of it.

There is no reason to be alarmed or to stop planting pines because of the beetle. If you intend to buy pines from the excellent nurseries in either of the two quarantined counties, simply check to make sure they were inspected.

The pine shoot beetle is common in Europe, and seems to have gotten into the U.S. in packing crates, pallets, or timbers with the bark still on. It has been found in such materials at ports of entry for years.

That it is already so wide-spread would seem to indicate that it has been here for some time in pine plantings. A couple of years ago, a large plantings of pines, moved from another state to one of the western suburbs, showed the characteristic symptoms, but inspection did not result in a positive diagnosis. To my knowledge, there has never been a recurrence in that planting.

Where a reasonable effort is made to eliminate breeding sites, the beetle will not be a serious problem. In southern pine forests where sanitation is not routinely practiced, it may become more serious.

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