Pest Alert

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Northeastern Area

NA-FB/P-17

EUROPEAN LARCH CANKER

Yellowing needles on cankered branch.

Stem canker with associated resin flow.

The European larch canker, *Lachnellula willkommii,* has been reported on native larch (tamarack) at several locations in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, Canada, and Washington County, Maine. Some trees 3 to 4 inches (7.6-10.2 cm) in diameter have died from this disease, which can attack all species of the genus Larix and Pseudolarix.

Trees of all age classes may be infected. Cankers first appear as a depression in the bark on branches of young or mature trees and stems of younger trees. Then, resin exudes from the cankered areas and white cup-shaped fruiting structures (apothecia) are produced. The disease is spread by wind-dispersed spores.

Small trees or branches may be girdled and killed. On stems of trees that survive attack, perennial cankers may appear, persist, and enlarge from year to year. This disease may have a significant impact on natural and planted larch stands in North America.

Cup-shaped fruiting structures.

Photos provided by:
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Report all suspect infections to:

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