

# Agro-Forestry Pest Management Workshops

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## Key Points

- Not all 'bugs' are bad news
- Prevention strategies and management
- How to survey and diagnose problems?
- Training tools - digital technology, online websites and information, helpful books
- Survey Results

## Body

Since the formation of the Woodlot Extension Program (WEP) seven years ago we have developed a relationship with many municipalities and other organizations. From working with these folks it became apparent that many professionals such as Agricultural Fieldman, AESA Rural Extension staff and PFRA staff were having trouble helping landowners diagnose tree health problems. The awareness of this issue rose substantially in 2006 when Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) invaded the Peace Country and appeared in pine shelterbelts, windbreaks and woodlots. As a result folks from all over Alberta became alarmed and began noticing all sorts of insects and pests on their trees that led to an increased demand for help with pest diagnosis. Unfortunately many landowners had little knowledge on how to deal with pests and were struggling to figure out what to do.

In winter 2007 WEP decided they would submit an "Agroforestry Pest Management Workshops" proposal application to help train people about dealing with common pests. We focused on biodiversity, beneficial and pest insects, weeds & diseases, MPB, and tree maintenance where local experts gave presentations. Since the launch of this program back in January 2007 WEP developed a number of articles, pest fact sheets and has educated over 200 landowners. WEP staff also helped many professionals and landowners diagnose tree health issues over the phone, by email and during the occasional farm visit.

This 20-minute presentation outlines the information we presented and what we learned about training folks. We will touch on some of the challenges we faced and what could be done to continue educating landowners about pest management. Lastly, we will discuss some of the feedback received from participants about the training sessions.

## Extension tools & tactics

## **Conclusion**

Overall this project was successful and many landowners have a better understanding of tree health. Participants were well informed about the benefits of biodiversity, beneficial and pest insects & diseases, Mountain Pine Beetle, weed management and how to keep trees healthy.

## **References:**

### **Literature**

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### **Helpful websites**

Alberta Sustainable Resource and Development: Forest Health Damage Diagnostics System - <http://www.srd.gov.ab.ca/forests/health/diagnostics.aspx>

Natural Resources Canada: Insects and diseases of Canada's forests - <http://imfc.cfl.scf.rncan.gc.ca/accueil-home-eng.html>

Natural Resources Canada: Conifer Defoliating Insects of British Columbia - [http://www.pfc.forestry.ca/entomology/defoliators/index\\_e.html](http://www.pfc.forestry.ca/entomology/defoliators/index_e.html)