

PEST: Pine Shoot Beetle (*Tomicus piniperda*)

BASIC PROFILE: PSB is a pine-feeding insect that attacks many species of pines and can spread through nursery stock or cut Christmas trees movement. Adults overwinter in bark at the base of standing host trees and feed on growing shoot tips; larvae develop beneath the bark of stumps or cut logs. Adults are reddish-brown to black and are small, 3-5mm (1/8 – 3/16”) long. Evidence of presence is yellow shoot tips and / or ‘shotgun holes’ found at the base of a pine tree or cut Christmas tree. Tree height and diameter are negatively affected by the feeding activities of this pest.

LDAF ACTIVITY: LDAF conducts annual cut Christmas tree inspections at retail and wholesale locations, looking for evidence of damage by PSB. LDAF also checks certification paperwork to confirm tree origin. Paperwork checks for proper certification are the main regulatory tool available. When non-certified trees are found, stop sales are issued and material may be destroyed or returned to origin if proper certification cannot be provided by the shipper.

