

## Why Are All The Pine Trees Red?

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Native to Manitoba, the jack pine budworm (*Christoneura pinus*) can always be found in pine forests. However, as populations increase it becomes much more apparent on the landscape. This insect as a caterpillar feeds on the pollen cones and new needles of jack pine trees causing red discoloration to be visible in the summer months. The last time populations were elevated was in the 1980s.



The trees will respond to this insect by producing fewer pollen cones (a very important food source) limiting the caterpillars' food supply. With this current level of impact it is likely that older trees and trees with health problems might die as a result from the additional stress of jack pine budworm. However the majority of trees will recover in time. Outbreaks are cyclical lasting two to four years and help with the natural process of forest regeneration.



Manitoba's Forestry and Peatlands Branch monitors the insect's population with moth traps, branch collections and an annual aerial survey. The pine trees are expected to be red along the east side of Lake Winnipeg for the next couple of years.

If you are interested in helping Manitoba track budworm, contact the treeline to sign up for budworm tracker: [treeline@gov.mb.ca](mailto:treeline@gov.mb.ca)



For additional information see:

[www.manitoba.ca/forest/pubs/forest\\_lands/health/jp\\_budworm\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.manitoba.ca/forest/pubs/forest_lands/health/jp_budworm_brochure.pdf)