

Pine Shoot Beetle Management

By David W. Taber

On November 13, 1992 a Federal quarantine that included New York's Erie and Niagara counties was made effective, "on an emergency basis." Its goal is to restrict and/or prevent the spread of the pine shoot beetle by "restricting the interstate movement of regulated articles from the quarantined areas."

On November 24, 1992, a New York State Intrastate Pine Shoot Beetle Quarantine was immediately adopted and enforced "as an emergency measure" for Erie and Niagara Counties, by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. This "parallel" (to Federal) quarantine requires that "pine Christmas trees; pine nursery stock; and pine, spruce, larch, and fir logs and lumber, with bark attached, shall not be shipped, transported or otherwise moved from any point within Erie and Niagara Counties to any point outside of



Adult pine shoot beetle tunneling up into shoot (current year's growth) of a Scotch pine twig in summertime. (Cornell Ag News Photo)

said Counties," without proper authorization as provided by the State quarantine.

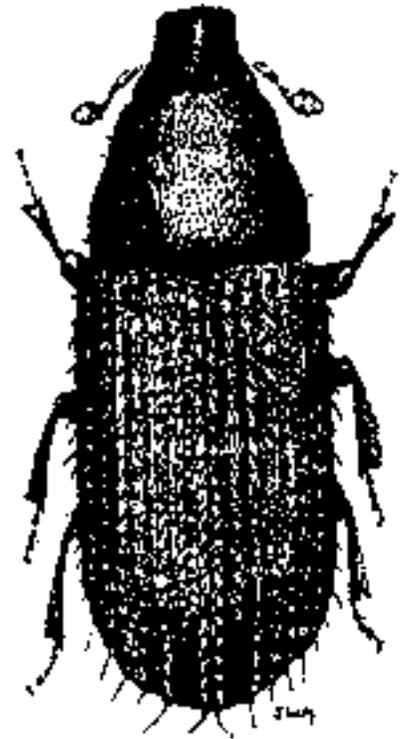
Since September 21, a joint effort of the National Christmas Tree Association; USDA APHIS, PPQ; the NYCTGA; George W. Hudler (Director of the Christmas Tree IPM Newsletter) and David W. Taber of Cornell University; Robert J. Mungari, Director of Plant Industry, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets; and others have implemented strategic planning efforts to protect Christmas tree growers, tree nurseries, forests and forestland owners, forest-product industries, and consumers from losses and potential losses caused by the insect.

Five growing sites in Erie and Niagara counties where the pine shoot beetle had been identified in 1992 were placed under a NYS Dept. of Agriculture & Markets Quarantine in October, as a practical interim precaution. In addition, protective action occurred in October by the following governmental entities which have imposed "reverse quarantines" that prohibit "regulated articles" (that might spread the pine shoot beetle from counties or states where it is known to exist) from being sent to their jurisdictions: Canada, Mexico, Oregon, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Louisiana.

In 1992 the pine shoot beetle (*Tomicus piniperda* L.) was found in 42 counties in 6 states, including Niagara and Erie counties in New York. The other states are Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

Prior to this outbreak, the insect had not been known to exist in the Nation except for its interception with packing and crating materials on imports, since 1946; the trapping of one beetle in Savannah Georgia in 1971; and a New Jersey nursery infestation of 1913-1914, which was eradicated.

However, in 1992 the insect's extensive distribution included Japan, China, Siberia, Europe including Great Britain, and Africa's Algeria. This massive land area is included between geographic latitudes that encompass North America, thereby indicating a potentially significant threat to



Adult pine shoot beetle (*Tomicus piniperda* L.)

some 35 species of pine trees that range over the continent.

The USDA APHIS Quarantine was published in the November 19, 1992 Federal Register (vol. 57, No. 224 - page 54492-54499). It states that "the present value of potential losses and increased production costs in the United States over the next 30 years attributable to this pest is \$742 million."

For NYS quarantine information contact Division of Plant Industry, Robert J. Mungari, Director, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, 1 Winners Circle, Albany, NY 12235 (Tel. 518/457-2087).

For Federal quarantine information, contact USDA, APHIS, PPQ, NYS Work Unit Office in Avoca, NY (Tel. 607/566-2212 - Richard B. Gaines, Officer in Charge) with field-staff sub-offices in Albany, Batavia, Buffalo, Canandaigua, Leicester, Newburgh, Rouses Point, Syracuse, Treadwell, and Westhampton Beach.