

FIR-FIREWEED RUST

Pucciniastrum epilobii (Oth.)

DISTRIBUTION

Throughout the range of its hosts in the province.



Figure 220. Blisters containing white or yellow spores.

HOST SUSCEPTIBILITY:

Amabilis fir, white fir, and subalpine fir of all ages, though most serious in young stands.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS:

Small blisters filled with white or yellow spores develop on the lower side of current-year needles in late spring to early summer. The infected needles become chlorotic or discoloured and may be shed prematurely. Fireweed is the alternate host for this disease.

DAMAGE:

Severe infection can almost completely defoliate current-year needles. Growth reduction may result. Mortality has occurred in young stands growing in recently logged areas where fireweed is abundant.



Figure 221. Current growth killed due to infection.

SIMILAR DAMAGE:

Several other needle rusts are found on true firs, and could be confused with fir-fireweed rust. Examination of the spores and the location of the damage will differentiate these rusts.