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Protect Your Christmas Tree Plantation

Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service
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Surround the plantation with plowed strip for fire lane, where possible. For larger plantations, divide into blocks—plow fire lanes between blocks.

Livestock will browse all species of evergreens, causing severe damage. Complete protection from all types of livestock is necessary.

Pine sawfly—spray with DDT emulsion. Pine shoot moth—cut infected twigs during the spring. Other insects—see your county agent.

Competition of Hardwoods And Brush

In order to produce well-formed Christmas trees, the removal of competing hardwoods and brush is sometimes necessary. This can be accomplished by cutting or with chemicals. For chemical control, use 2,4,5-T in oil, as a basal spray during the winter months. Foliage sprays in late summer, using a mixture of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T, can be used to control low-growing brush where necessary. Every precaution should be taken to prevent the spray from getting on the evergreens themselves. (See Extension Leaflet 358, “Brush Control by Chemicals,” Purdue University.)

Diseases

There are a few diseases which may occasionally cause trouble. Among these are needle blights and needle casts, which sometimes cause loss of needles. The best protection is to watch the plantation for evidences of disease, and report outbreaks to your County Agricultural Agent or local forester for information on control measures.

Rodents and Rabbits

Rodents may cause damage to some plantations. For rabbits and large rodents, such as groundhogs, chemical repellents offer a possibility of control. If mice cause serious injury, they can be killed with poison bait.

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