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# VIRGINIA DIVISION of FORESTRY NEWS RELEASE

Virginia Division of Forestry  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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SUBJECT: Damage from oak leaf tier, an insect that defoliates oaks, is expected to be nominal.

Negligible to light damage is expected from the oak leaf tier except in southwestern Alleghany County reports State Forester George W. Dean. The Virginia Division of Forestry recently completed a survey of the areas with histories of heavy defoliation and spot checked other potentially susceptible areas.

In recent years a combination of droughts and oak leaf tier defoliation has caused decline and mortality of scarlet and red oaks in certain parts of the state. The hardest hit areas in previous years were Alleghany and Montgomery Counties.

The oak leaf tier eggs hatch when the buds of oaks are opening in the spring. The young larvae bore into the expanding buds and later feed on the emerging leaves and thus develop.

"Unfortunately the low temperatures of January had no detrimental effect on the insect. Forested areas where scarlet and red oaks are the major species component should be watched for possible population increases," warns Dean.

MORE - MORE - MORE

"Forest land owners are urged to examine their forest holdings from time to time. The Virginia Division of Forestry is equipped to identify forest insect and disease pests and advise on their control. Just get in touch with your County Chief Forest Warden or nearest Division of Forestry office for help," said Dean.

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