



30 June 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: DOTHISTROMA PINE NEEDLE BLIGHT

The attached article explains the aims of the Dothistroma Control Committee (DCC) in coordinating the annual aerial spraying programme in order to control *Dothistroma* in pine plantations. This disease affects pine plantations of all sizes, from woodlots to major forests, and can have a dramatic impact on tree health and growth rate, and thus value of the crop.

The DCC believes that there are many forest owners, including farmers with areas of their farms planted in pines, who may be unaware of the potential problems, and thus are also unaware of the work of the committee in controlling the disease.

We would appreciate it if you could print the attached article in the next issue of your publication, in order to give forest owners time to consider the problem and contact the Committee so that, if necessary, their trees can be included in this summer's spray programme.

The DCC is a non-profit organisation, whose only function is to coordinate the annual spray programme for the control of *Dothistroma*.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Don Hammond
Secretary

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DOTHISTROMA PINE NEEDLE BLIGHT

Dothistroma is a needle blight that affects the health and growth of pine trees. Each spring and summer, affected forests around New Zealand are aerially sprayed with a copper fungicide to control the disease.

The Dothistroma Control Committee (DCC), a sub-committee of the NZ Forest Owners Association Inc (NZFOA), coordinates this spray programme on behalf of all forest owners. The Committee is concerned that forest owners or managers of small blocks may overlook the presence of the disease in their forests until serious damage to the stands has occurred. In addition, untreated stands create a source of infection to neighbouring forests.

The Committee's services are available to all forest owners - large or small, to ensure the best control of the disease in the most cost effective manner.

The DCC purchases bulk supplies of copper fungicide at competitive rates on the world market; purchases spray oil; and contracts aerial application of the spray.

The Committee, which is non-profit making, is also responsible for monitoring the programme and reviewing new research and developments that might improve the programme. The DCC members are from major forest growers, Farm Forestry Association and Scion.

In order to ensure that the most competitive flying rates are received, the Committee requires requests for spraying to be made by late-August of each year.

If assistance is required to assess levels of infection, you should contact one of the NZ Forest Owner's Association approved Forest Health Surveyors, a Registered Forestry Consultant, or someone trained in *Dothistroma* assessment.

Forest owners are urged to act promptly so that their forest can be scheduled on the work programme for this season. For enquiries or assistance with spray programmes contact:

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