THE NEW BERN MIRROR, NEW BERN, N. C.

Friday, October 27, 1972

Southern Pine Beetle Destroying N. C. Trees

The southern pine beetle, one of the most destructive forest insects in the South, is rampant in the Mountain and Piedmont sections of North Carolina and present in large numbers

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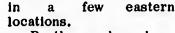
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Beetle numbers have increased drastically in the last three months, according to North Carolina State University forester Fred Whitfield. "It is present in vigorous broods and has spread rapidly," Whitfield said. "It is present in some eastern areas where it has not been reported

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before." The N. C. Forest Service and NCSU foresters are suggesting salvage operations in areas of infestation. "Harvesting forest trees when they reach maturity and following a good sanitation program are the best and quickest means of beetle control," Whitfield said.

The beetle is more likely to be found in stagnated stands of overmature trees, smaller trees in dense stands, trees on poor growing sites or in trees that are under any other form of stress.

"The best protection against the beetle is a good, healthy stand," Whitfield believes.

Symptoms of southern pine beetle infestation don't show immediately. Its presence may be indicated by patches of dead and dying pines. Infested trees may have small reddish-brown globs of resin with a hole in the center of each. The attack starts in the bark in the middle and upper sections of the trunk.

Ten days to two weeks after the tree has been attacked, the needles turn yellowish-green. As the infestation progresses, the needles turn a deep yellow. This is when the beetles leave to infest other trees.

If the bark appears to have been riddled with a charge of bird shot from a shotgun, the beetles have left the tree.

If beetles attack in late fall or winter, the foliage may remain green until spring.

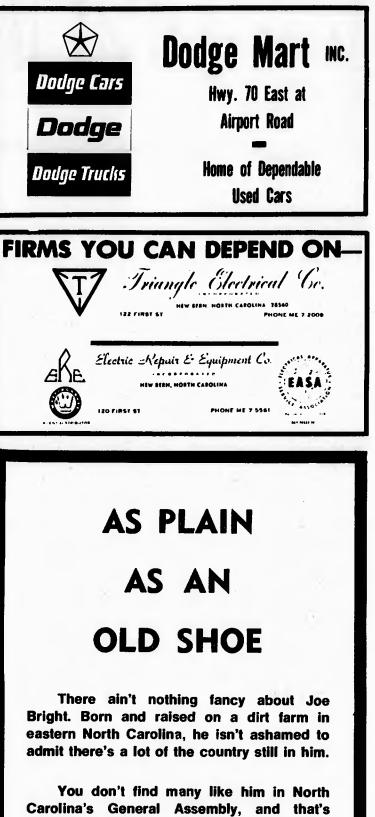
To confirm that a tree has been attacked by the southern pine beetle, peel off a section of bark from the infested area. If there are winding, S-shaped tunnels on the inner side, beetles are present.

Natural factors are important in the control of this pest. Tem-

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Use your clothes dryer to air and dust bedding, draperies and slipcovers. Just air-fluff them, without heat --ten or fifteen minutes should do it, say extension home management specialists, North Carolina State University. Be sure to use the "timed" or "fluff" setting on the dial, they caution. TIRES Don't Buy any tire Until you see me II JACK MORTON Morton Motor Co. Dowr.town Ceramic Tile **Quarry Porches Marble Fireplaces** Rubber & Asphalt Tile G. H. BRYAN TILE CONTRACTOR ME 7-5418

peratures of zero or below kill large numbers in the winter. In some cases, woodpeckers are of considerable help. Diseases, insect predators and insect parasites are important factors in natural control.



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