

May 1999

FIRST JOINT REVIEW PHEROMONE REGISTERED TO FRUSTRATE FOREST FOE

Forest managers in Canada will have the opportunity to use a new and important type of pest control product this year. The Eastern Pine Shoot Borer Pheromone has completed the Joint Review process set up between Canada and the US under the NAFTA Technical Working Group on Pesticides and been granted a time-limited registration. The pheromone was developed by Bedoukian Research Inc. (active ingredient) and 3M Canada (end-use product). It is the first pheromone ever to be registered for use in forestry in Canada., and the first product to be registered in Canada that can be used against the destructive Eastern Pine Shoot Borer.

Pheromones act by modifying the mating behaviour of the pests rather than killing them. They are more target specific than conventional insecticides, are used at concentrations close to those occurring in nature, and dissipate rapidly. For these reasons it is expected that most pheromone products will pose low potential risk to human health and the environment compared with conventional pesticides.