

Note on Malformation of Sitka Spruce due to Drift from Hormone Weed Killer.

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IN recent years, damage and abnormalities of various types have become increasingly prevalent on many crops due to the use of hormone weed killers. The chemicals were not necessarily applied to the crop in question but on adjacent crops, and the present note is to draw attention to a case of this kind on young trees.

Picture on opposite page is typical of malformed shoots of Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) submitted for examination in October, 1957. The specimens were forwarded by Mr. P. O'Shea, Horticultural Instructor, Co. Waterford. He reported that about 0.5 per cent. of eight year old trees growing in a shelter belt were affected in this manner. The coiled, twisted shoots were very brittle, but no parasitic organism was present. Investigations revealed that hormone weed-killers had been used in the vicinity of the trees. Furthermore, those most affected occurred in thin parts of the shelter belt, where air currents had evidently carried the drift from the spray deep into the shelter belt.

Cover Photograph

Our cover photograph shows 47 year-old Douglas fir trees growing at Glenseskin property, Kilworth State Forest, Co. Cork.

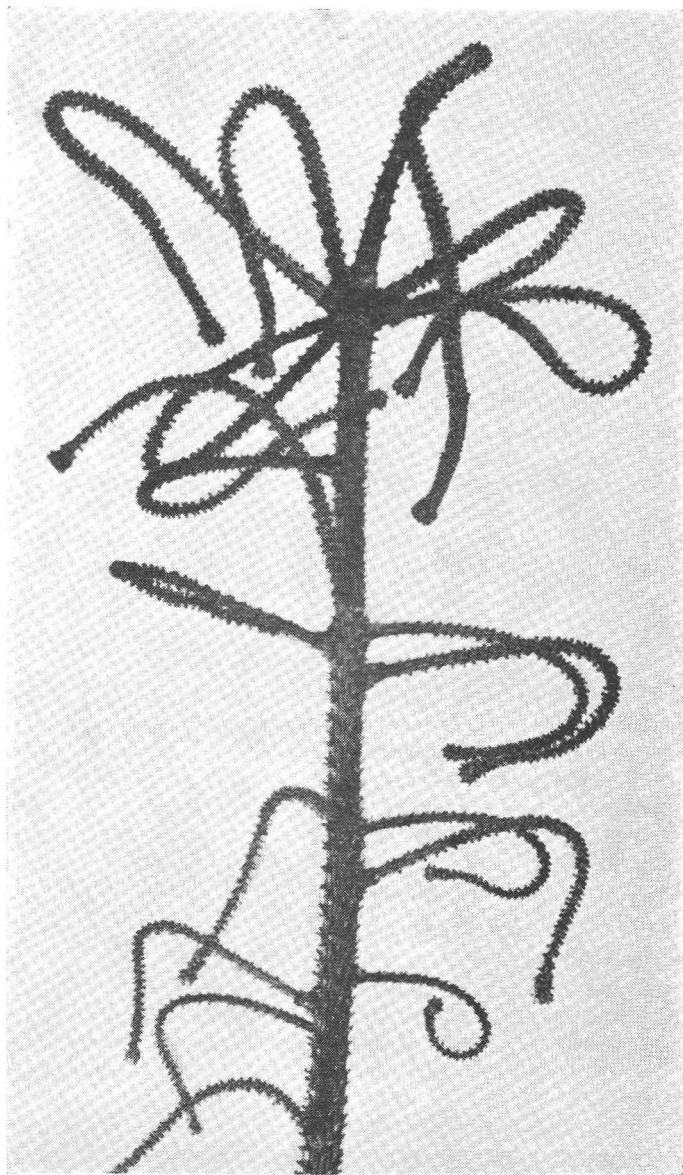
One of the trees blown by storm and regarded as average for the stand gave the following measurements :

Total height	...	...	...	107	feet
Q.G.B.H.	...	...	...	15 $\frac{1}{4}$	ins.
Vol. over bark	...	...	...	67.55	Hoppus feet

The photograph is printed by kind permission of the Department of Lands, Forestry Division, Dublin.

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Malformed shoot of Sitka spruce due to drift from weed killer.