



Cone and Seed Improvement Program BCMof Tree Seed Centre

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***Caloscypha* on *Abies* spp.**

The cold fungus (*Caloscypha fulgens* (Pers.) Boud.) is generally thought to be a problem with spruce seeds, but several seedlots of *Abies* were seriously infected during 1996. The fungus infects cones in contact with the soil or litter layer and kills the seed, leaving the contents mummified. As most *Abies* seed is collected by helicopter it is surprising that *Caloscypha* is present.

The most probable explanation is that the landing site for cones is also the infection site. If conducting *Abies* collections one should ensure tarps are present to avoid cone and soil contact. *Caloscypha* and *Abies* can be a dangerous combination as the fungus grows well in cool, moist conditions and *Abies* spp. require long periods of these conditions to remove seed dormancy. It is essential that collectors avoid letting cones come in contact with the ground, especially for species requiring long stratification periods.

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