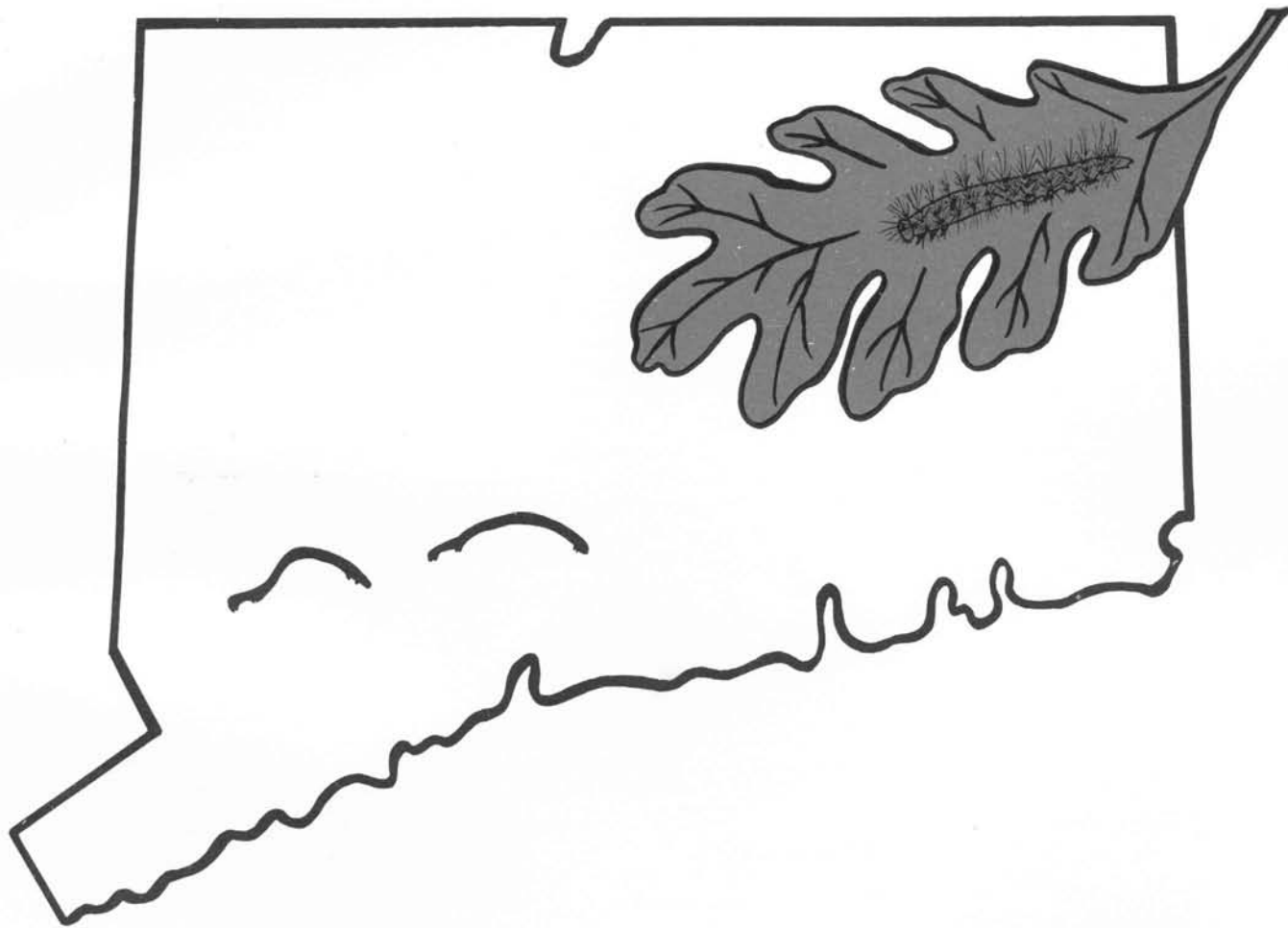


# DEFOLIATION

In Connecticut 1969-1974

Tabulated by use of the Geo-Code



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The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station  
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The gypsy moth, *Porthetria dispar* (L.)<sup>1</sup>, and elm spanworm, *Ennomos subsignarius* (Hübner)<sup>2</sup>, reached unprecedented numbers in Connecticut in the early 1970's. The elm spanworm outbreak which began in 1970 collapsed in large part in the summer of 1972. Gypsy moth outbreaks were common in Connecticut during the 1950's and the 1960's (Turner 1963a), but areas in excess of 200,000 acres were not defoliated until the early 1970's. Outbreaks continued through 1974.

Defoliation had not caused high tree mortality in Connecticut (Stephens 1971), but large numbers of trees died elsewhere (Turner 1963b, Kegg 1971.) However, Dunbar and Stephens (ms. submitted) show that a high percentage of oaks, particularly chestnut oaks, which tend to grow on ridgetops and shallow, rocky soils, have recently died in several areas of the state. The cause of death was attributed mainly to the two-lined chestnut borer, *Agilus bilineatus* (Web.), which principally attacks trees weakened by defoliation or other causes (Chapman 1915).

Defoliation data in this bulletin may serve as a partial guide to areas where oak trees may be more susceptible to attack by the two-lined chestnut borer and where higher mortality of oak trees may

be expected. But the data may also, in time, show that extensive and severe defoliation, even in successive years, may not necessarily result in extensive tree mortality in Connecticut.

The data show the location, intensity and duration of the outbreaks of both insects during 1969-74 and their pattern of dispersal. The effects on defoliation of aerial spraying with carbaryl are also discussed.

### Geo-Code

The Geo-Code system devised by Gould (1968, 1972) was used to record and tabulate defoliation. Four-letter Geo-Codes were assigned to the eight counties. Because Connecticut, like several other states, uses a "town" system within counties, a fifth letter, or grid, was assigned to designate each of the 169 towns.

We report the first use of the Geo-Code to record the magnitude and intensity of damage due to outbreaks of pest organisms. The Geo-Code could be used to record gypsy moth damage throughout its range in North America and the Old World just as it is used for the gypsy moth and elm spanworm in Connecticut. Use of the Geo-Code in this manner would allow uniformly organized records to be assembled, summarized, and published of the damage caused by any disease organism or insect.

1. Lymantriidae  
2. Geometriidae

### Methods

The aerial defoliation surveys were made each year in early July after the elm spanworm had ceased feeding and the gypsy moth had discontinued most of its feeding. Two people estimated the intensity of defoliation and recorded its magnitude on a map with a scale of 1:125,000. Intensities were color coded to facilitate recording. A modified acreage grid<sup>3</sup> was used to calculate the acreage defoliated within each town. Ground surveys determined which species were abundant within a particular town.

Data from 1969 and 1970 were pooled and presented as noticeable defoliation. The categories were changed in 1971 because they were not satisfactory in showing intensity of defoliation. Four categories, namely 10-25%, 26-50%, 51-75% and 76-100% were used beginning in 1971.

Noticeable defoliation recorded for each county during each year is shown in Table 1. The intensity of defoliation observed in each county for 1971-74 is given in Table 10. The total noticeable defoliation for each town from 1969-1974 is shown in Tables 2-9.

3. Forestry Suppliers, Inc., Jackson, Miss.

Table 1. Noticeable defoliation by county in Connecticut (ONUE), 1969-1974

Geo-Code	County Name	Acres/Year						County Acreage
		1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	
ONUO	LITCHFIELD	1491	32196	60454	109790	9847	32093	607168
ONUP	HARTFORD		16255	70458	85210	25105	7003	480128
ONUQ	TOLLAND			18719	50705	99601	29991	268848
ONUR	WINDHAM	1752	45005	69038	35480	68465	39369	332740
ONUS	FAIRFIELD		138220	188434	1920			422031
ONUT	NEW HAVEN	1509	120128	135257	48120	2103		399016
ONUU	MIDDLESEX		20715	51369	94160	27169		248028
ONUV	NEW LONDON	47883	52520	60373	83075	100925	12524	448508
	TOTAL	52635	425039	654102	508460	333215	120980	3206467

Table 2. Noticeable defoliation by town in Litchfield County (ONUO), 1969-1974

Geo-Code	Town Name	Acres/Year						Town Acreage
		1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	
ONUKZ	BARKHAMSTED		400	3132	6120	156		24960
ONUOT	BETHLEHEM				5040			12608
ONUOW	BRIDGEWATER			3233	2240			10432
ONUKT	CANAAN							21376
ONUKV	COLEBROOK							21120
ONUKW	CORNWALL				1680	428	4979	29952
ONUKX	GOSHEN				1800		545	29184
ONUOR	HARWINTON		6600	12444	5760	195		20096
ONUOK	KENT				6440	5332	7040	31680
ONUOQ	LITCHFIELD		1200	5569	10800	117	389	36672
ONUOP	MORRIS		240	39	5230			12032
ONUON	NEW HARTFORD		40	7497	14920			24512
ONUOS	NEW MILFORD			2862	1160			41126
ONUKU	NORFOLK							29888
ONUKP	NORTH CANAAN	172						12544
ONUOV	PLYMOUTH	197	12576	9340	840			14336
ONUOX	ROXBURY		60	2801	5120			16896
ONUKO	SALISBURY						1673	38720
ONUKS	SHARON					973	11359	38592
ONUOU	THOMASTON		1520	4396	1400	778		7680
ONUOM	TORRINGTON		280		9240	1051		25600
ONUOL	WARREN				10800		6108	17920
ONUOO	WASHINGTON				8120			24768
ONUOZ	WATERTOWN	10	3840	272	2320			19072
ONUKY	WINCHESTER				2240	817		21760
ONUOY	WOODBURY	1112	5440	8869	8520			23552

## Defoliation, 1969-1974

## Defoliation, 1969

The gypsy moth defoliated 52,635 acres in 24 towns in four counties in 1969 (Fig. 1). The largest infestation was in the Ledyard-North Stonington area (New London County). Most of the defoliation in the western half of Connecticut occurred near

Lake Quasapaug in Woodbury (Litchfield County) and Middlebury (New Haven County).

## Defoliation, 1970

Defoliation in 85 towns in seven counties covered 425,039 acres in 1970 (Fig. 2). Defoliation was caused mostly by gypsy moth in New London, Windham and Middlesex Counties. Both the gypsy

Table 3. Noticeable defoliation by town in Hartford County (ONUP), 1969-1974

Geo-Code	Town Name	Acres/Year					Town Acreage	
		1969	1970	1971	1972	1973		1974
ONULX	AVON			311	7160			15040
ONUPX	BERLIN		3120	4007	3200			17280
ONULY	BLOOMFIELD			972	1560	973		16896
ONUPK	BRISTOL		4320	7819	600			17024
ONULW	BURLINGTON		5120	15314	11360	389		19584
ONULS	CANTON			662	2520			16000
ONULP	EAST GRANBY				320		856	11136
ONUPQ	EAST HARTFORD					233		11584
ONULV	EAST WINDSOR						545	17152
ONULR	ENFIELD						273	21632
ONUPL	FARMINGTON		575	7517	6160			18368
ONUPV	GLASTONBURY			7731	17840	7084		33600
ONULO	GRANBY		920	4852	1840		2178	26432
ONUPM	HARTFORD				200			11776
ONULK	HARTLAND				4080		389	22080
ONUPR	MANCHESTER			992	2840	4399		17408
ONUPZ	MARLBOROUGH			3427	11060	6812		15040
ONUPS	NEW BRITAIN		200	370	880			8512
ONUPT	NEWINGTON			1072	440			8448
ONUPO	PLAINVILLE		560	487	1280			6336
ONUPY	ROCKY HILL			428	1080			8896
ONULT	SIMSBURY			117	3640	817		22080
ONUPN	SOUTH WINDSOR					1674	350	18240
ONUPW	SOUTHINGTON		1160	10464	4230			23616
ONULQ	SUFFIELD						1478	27584
ONUPP	WEST HARTFORD		280	3038	2600			14208
ONUPU	WETHERSFIELD			312	160			8320
ONULZ	WINDSOR			566	160	2724	623	19968
ONULU	WINDSOR LOCKS						311	5888

Table 4. Noticeable defoliation by town in Tolland County (ONUQ), 1969-1974

Geo-Code	Town Name	Acres/Year					Town Acreage	
		1969	1970	1971	1972	1973		1974
ONUQX	ANDOVER			1478	3480	5215		9984
ONUQS	BOLTON			2490	1595	4437		9920
ONUQY	COLUMBIA			409	2360	4904	78	13952
ONUQT	COVENTRY				7280	5838	234	23872
ONUQL	ELLINGTON			312	640	5994	1867	22144
ONUQW	HEBRON			440	11840	4904	156	24000
ONUQZ	MANSFIELD			7264	8480	9769		28928
ONUQK	SOMERS					2725	1594	18368
ONUQO	STAFFORD			1149	3040	19383	8752	38512
ONUQP	TOLLAND			2560	3320	13350	3384	25856
ONUQR	UNION					8330	13420	19136
ONUQO	VERNON			273	590	4476	39	11904
ONUQU	WILLINGTON			2344	8080	10276	467	22272

moth and elm spanworm were responsible for defoliation in New Haven, Fairfield, Litchfield and Hartford Counties. The elm spanworm was usually more abundant in the western part of the state. North Stonington, Canterbury, Redding, Oxford, Ridgefield and Newtown each had more than 15,000 acres defoliated. Six other towns had between 10,000 to 14,999 acres of defoliation. Twenty more towns had from 5,000 to 9,999 acres defoliated.

#### Defoliation, 1971

Defoliation totaled 654,102 acres in 127 towns in

all eight counties in 1971 (Fig. 3). The gypsy moth caused defoliation east of the Connecticut River in Tolland, Windham, and New London Counties, and in portions of Middlesex and Hartford Counties. Both the gypsy moth and the elm spanworm were present in Fairfield, New Haven and Litchfield Counties, and in portions of Hartford and Middlesex Counties. West of the Connecticut River, gypsy moth tended to be more abundant in the northern and eastern areas, whereas the elm spanworm often seemed to be most abundant elsewhere.

Defoliation was most severe in New Haven and

Table 5. Noticeable defoliation by town in Windham County (ONUR), 1969-1974

Geo-Code	Town Name	Acres/Year					Town Acreage	
		1969	1970	1971	1972	1973		1974
ONURK	ASHFORD			1344	6800	15414	1050	25792
ONURU	BROOKLYN		1240	9007	2240	4204	3929	18368
ONURX	CANTERBURY	875	20000	16016	880	350	4512	25600
ONURO	CHAPLIN		785	2590	2640	4632	350	12672
ONURL	EASTFORD				2720	4320	3579	18304
ONURT	HAMPTON		4680	8564		5060	1907	16192
ONURV	KILLINGLY			78	1280	11249	6496	32000
ONURY	PLAINFIELD	644	2020	7421	4600	1168	856	27328
ONURP	POMFRET		1680	7026		5683	3890	25984
ONURQ	PUTNAM						2062	12864
ONURW	SCOTLAND	233	9600	8507	120	1946	351	11716
ONURZ	STERLING			2805	11640	4203	117	17408
ONURN	THOMPSON							31168
ONURS	WINDHAM		5000	5680	2560	5799	428	17920
ONURM	WOODSTOCK					4437	9842	39424

Table 6. Noticeable defoliation by town in Fairfield County (ONUS), 1969-1974

Geo-Code	Town Name	Acres/Year					Town Acreage	
		1969	1970	1971	1972	1973		1974
ONUSP	BETHEL		4760	5057				10880
ONUSZ	BRIDGEPORT			467				11200
ONUSM	BROOKFIELD			6005	960			12672
ONUSO	DANBURY		14160	13811				28160
ONUWO	DARIEN			1538				9536
ONUSY	EASTON		3720	7430				18432
ONUWN	FAIRFIELD			6516				19584
ONUWK	GREENWICH		800	2013				32384
ONUSQ	MONROE		13240	12209				16896
ONUWM	NEW CANAAN		8400	7112				14812
ONUSL	NEW FAIRFIELD		1800	11781				16512
ONUSN	NEWTOWN		18000	24012	680			38643
ONUWP	NORWALK		920	1733				17728
ONUST	REDDING		18120	13633				20608
ONUSJ	RIDGEFIELD		21040	20909				22400
ONUSR	SHELTON		8000	14408				20096
ONUSK	SHERMAN			5880	280			15040
ONUWL	STAMFORD		2640	6030				24640
ONUSV	STRATFORD			3446				11968
ONUSU	TRUMBULL		1240	6076				15040
ONUSX	WESTON		8000	9786				13312
ONUWQ	WESTPORT			3019				14336
ONUSW	WILTON		13880	5563				17152

Fairfield Counties where it occurred in all towns. Ridgefield and Newtown (Fairfield County) each had more than 20,000 acres defoliated greater than 51%. Southbury (New Haven County), North Stonington and Voluntown (New London County), Canterbury (Windham County) and Burlington

(Hartford County), each had 15,000 to 19,999 acres defoliated. Ten other towns had between 10,000 to 14,999 acres defoliated. Another 38 towns had 5,000 to 9,999 acres defoliated. Defoliation in excess of 51% was recorded upon 10,000 to 14,999 acres in eight towns and to the same degree on from 5,000 to

Table 7. Noticeable defoliation by town in New Haven County (ONUT), 1969-1974

Geo-Code	Town Name	Acres/Year					Town Acreage
		1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	
ONUTX	ANSONIA		840	1673			3968
ONUTT	BEACON FALLS	112	5872	1556			6472
ONUTU	BETHANY	102	12840	9880	600		13440
ONUXR	BRANFORD			993	1920	195	17856
ONUTR	CHESHIRE		4000	13202	1240		21120
ONUTW	DERBY		1040	1169			3392
ONUXQ	EAST HAVEN			933	720		8064
ONUXM	GUILFORD		200	3621	11880	623	30464
ONUXO	HAMDEN		5800	10354	1200		21120
ONUXN	MADISON		640	8774	9160	507	23232
ONUTV	MERIDEN		3080	3272	4080		15360
ONUTL	MIDDLEBURY	1002	8640	5002	640		11520
ONUXS	MILFORD			2317			15240
ONUTP	NAUGATUCK		7640	4102	160		10368
ONUXP	NEW HAVEN		80	992			13504
ONUXL	NORTH BRANFORD		560	5200	6400	389	17112
ONUXK	NORTH HAVEN			2611	1640		13440
ONUXT	ORANGE		120	2707			11264
ONUTO	OXFORD		20240	760			21120
ONUTQ	PROSPECT		8472	7800			9152
ONUTS	SEYMOUR	10	6000	1791		117	9408
ONUTK	SOUTHBURY	242	6480	17116	1160		26176
ONUTZ	WALLINGFORD		200	5389	5000	272	25472
ONUTM	WATERBURY	30	5480	5679	120		18432
ONUXU	WEST HAVEN			839			6784
ONUTN	WOLCOTT	11	12344	9278	2200		13184
ONUXV	WOODBIDGE		9560	8247			12352

Table 8. Noticeable defoliation by town in Middlesex County (ONU), 1969-1974

Geo-Code	Town Name	Acres/Year					Town Acreage
		1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	
ONUUT	CHESTER			1206	4200	1246	10176
ONUW	CLINTON				2800		11008
ONUUL	CROMWELL			582	400	506	8640
ONUUV	DEEP RIVER			840	2440	272	9088
ONUUP	DURHAM		4300	3174	1560		14912
ONUUR	EAST HADDAM			1677	25160	17165	36864
ONUUN	EAST HAMPTON			3272	17440	5683	23552
ONUUV	ESSEX		195	585	400		7808
ONUUG	HADDAM		3360	6962	14640	1635	29888
ONUUS	KILLINGWORTH		20	11316	9720	195	23040
ONUUK	MIDDLETOWN		4680	9385	4240		27392
ONUJO	MIDDLEFIELD			1149	1040		8412
ONUJY	OLD SAYBROOK		4860	622	40		11712
ONUUM	PORTLAND			7153	8280	467	15168
ONUUX	WESTBROOK		3300	3446	1800		10368



9,999 acres in another 19 towns. Madison, Burlington and Southbury, each had more than 5,000 acres almost completely defoliated (76-100%).

#### Defoliation, 1972

Defoliation in 1972 was not as severe as in 1971, but noticeable defoliation totalled 508,460 acres. This was 145,642 acres less than the year before (Fig. 4). Most of the defoliation in eastern Connecticut (New London, Tolland and Windham Counties) was caused by the gypsy moth. Elsewhere it was often caused by both insects except in Granby and Hartland (Hartford County) and in Barkhamsted (Litchfield County) where it was caused entirely by the gypsy moth.

Some defoliation was recorded in 117 towns in all eight counties. Towns with the largest acreages affected included East Haddam with more than 25,000 acres, and Glastonbury and East Hampton with 15,000 to 19,999 acres. Defoliation of 10,000 to 14,999 acres was recorded in 11 other towns and defoliation of 5,000 to 9,999 acres was recorded in another 24 towns.

The largest areas in the 76-100% category were in Litchfield and Windham Counties where 9,310 and 5,400 acres respectively were almost completely defoliated. Over three quarters of the defoliation in Middlesex County was 51% or greater.

#### Defoliation, 1973

Defoliation in 1973 totalled 333,215 acres, 175,245 acres less than the year before, virtually all caused by the gypsy moth. Less than 50 acres were in-

festated by the elm spanworm. This outbreak occurred in East Haddam.

Defoliation was recorded in 78 towns in seven counties, but most of it occurred east of the Connecticut River (Fig. 5). Colchester, East Haddam, Stafford and Ashford each had more than 15,000 acres defoliated. Seven towns had 10,000 to 14,999 acres defoliated and 15 others had 5,000 to 9,999 acres affected. The intensity of defoliation was greatest in Tolland and New London Counties.

#### Defoliation, 1974

Defoliation totalled 120,980 acres, 212,235 less than in 1973 (Fig. 6). This year, too, all defoliation was caused by the gypsy moth.

Some defoliation was recorded in 56 towns in five counties, but most occurred in Litchfield, Tolland and Windham Counties. The towns of Sharon and Union each had 10,000 to 14,999 acres defoliated; five other towns had 5,000 to 9,999 acres defoliated. The intensity of defoliation was greatest in Litchfield and Windham Counties.

#### Tree Mortality

Stephens (1971) reported that trees growing on rocky, shallow soils, which had been defoliated in successive years, had a death rate over a decade about twice that of undefoliated trees growing under similar soil conditions. However, more recently the findings of Dunbar and Stephens (ms. submitted) have shown oak mortalities as high as 79% on shallow, rocky soils following two or more

Table 9. Noticeable defoliation by town in New London County (ONU), 1969-1974

Town Name	Geo-Code	Acres/Year					Town Acreage	
		1969	1970	1971	1972	1973		1974
ONUVO	BOZRAH	212			320	6306	2022	12800
ONUWK	COLCHESTER				13520	15997	195	31100
ONUVY	EAST LYME				7300	10276	1985	22272
ONUVP	FRANKLIN			390	600	3036	1011	12800
ONUVM	GRISWOLD	3142	9560	8865	1200	311	739	24064
ONUZP	GROTON	6000	8760	4247	1280	1557	311	24512
ONUVL	LEBANON				3040	9925	816	35904
ONUZL	LEDYARD	19145	1320			2336	233	25920
ONUVR	LISBON	1462	2560	1987	5240	1207	117	10560
ONUVW	LYME			700	8515	12572		21120
ONUVT	MONTVILLE	320			4520	10703	1828	28096
ONUWK	NEW LONDON		80			156	39	4672
ONUWM	NORTH STONINGTON	8113	17960	18685	8720	428		36032
ONUWU	NORWICH	140	360		2200	1985	311	17344
ONUWX	OLD LYME				1840	6655	778	17344
ONUWV	PRESTON	7872	5360	117	1480	78		20032
ONUWS	SALEM				11600	10392		19136
ONUWQ	SPRAGUE	1477	1560	2035	1960	2413	739	8576
ONUWZ	STONINGTON		4720	6737	4700	1401		27328
ONUWN	VOLUNTOWN		160	16610	4240		156	25408
ONUWZ	WATERFORD		120		800	3191	1244	23488

Table 10. Intensity of defoliation by county in Connecticut (ONUE), 1969-1974

Geo-Code	County	Year	Acres/Percent Defoliation				Total Defoliation	County Acreage
			10-25	26-50	51-75	76-100		
ONUO	LITCHFIELD	1971	9751	11462	31939	7302	60454	607168
		1972	9360	64600	26520	9310	109790	
		1973	156	2879	5489	1323	9847	
		1974	1167	12370	7858	10698	32093	
ONUP	HARTFORD	1971	17534	6561	30726	15637	70458	480128
		1972	6550	36240	38740	3680	85210	
		1973	156	10976	13544	429	25105	
		1974		3307	2374	1322	7003	
ONUQ	TOLLAND	1971	9367	4124	3805	1423	18719	268848
		1972	7790	18875	20360	3680	50705	
		1973	1246	37831	45150	15374	99601	
		1974	2296	10113	14198	3384	29991	
ONUR	WINDHAM	1971	7030	18885	38624	4499	69038	332740
		1972	2560	16520	11000	5400	35480	
		1973	2958	44799	19384	1324	68465	
		1974	8131	17894	12137	1207	39369	
ONUS	FAIRFIELD	1971	11987	32384	123707	20356	188434	422031
		1972	680	1240			1920	
		1973						
		1974						
ONUT	NEW HAVEN	1971	7302	36604	65248	26103	135257	399016
		1972	5600	27520	14080	920	48120	
		1973	896	856	351		2103	
		1974						
ONUU	MIDDLESEX	1971	8272	25354	10045	7698	51369	248028
		1972	3520	18640	71880	120	94160	
		1973	1985	11561	12727	896	27169	
		1974						
ONUV	NEW LONDON	1971	14383	18667	19303	8020	60373	448576
		1972	9435	49160	24280	200	83075	
		1973	117	38300	53127	9381	100925	
		1974	6301	4783	1245	195	12524	



successive defoliations. Based upon the defoliation figures for the past six years and the recent findings of Dunbar and Stephens, it appears that high tree mortality, particularly among oaks, may occur in several areas where severe defoliation has occurred for two or more successive years on sites with shallow, rocky soils.

#### Termination and Duration of Outbreaks

Outbreaks of gypsy moth and elm spanworm ultimately collapse from natural causes. The nuclear polyhedrosis virus is the primary biotic agent terminating gypsy moth outbreaks (Campbell 1963b, Doane 1970), although another pathogen, *Streptococcus faecalis*, is also important (Doane and Redys 1970). Gypsy moth populations also tend to decrease as defoliation approaches 100% (Campbell 1973). Not only is the insects' food supply exhausted, but female larvae and pupae, in particular, often die from desiccation (Campbell 1973) and from the stinging of ichneumonids (Campbell 1963a). Desiccation may be a symptom of infection by *S. faecalis* (Doane and Redys 1970).

The significance of precipitation, mean minimum winter temperatures and availability of favorable food plants in the termination of outbreaks of gypsy moths were also discussed by Campbell (1973). Friend (1945) suggested that winter temperatures were not a significant factor in suppressing gypsy moth populations in Connecticut.

The causes of natural population collapses of the gypsy moth were not documented during the period covered by this report. Epizootics and starvation presumably were the primary causes.

Egg parasitoids are the principal biological agents causing the collapse of outbreaks of the elm spanworm (Ciesla 1964, Kaya and Anderson 1974). *Telenomus alsophilae* Viereck played a significant role in reducing the numbers of elm spanworm toward the end of the outbreak in the southern Appalachians (Ciesla 1964). Late spring frosts which killed the foliage and resulted in starvation of early instar larvae also played a role in the termination of that outbreak, (Ciesla 1963, Drooz 1972), as did shortages of foliage following single (Ciesla 1963) and successive defoliations (Drooz 1970, 1971).

The collapse of the elm spanworm outbreak in Connecticut has been thoroughly documented (Kaya and Anderson 1972, 1974, Anderson and Kaya 1973). *Ooencyrtus ennemus* Yoshimoto, a species that soon will be described, (C. M. Yoshimoto, personal communication)<sup>4</sup> caused the collapse in southwestern Connecticut in 1971, and in all other areas of the state in 1972 and 1973. It took no more than two years for collapse to occur in any

given area of the state. Other parasitoids and reduction of quantity of food were not significant factors. Disease was not important in terminating the Connecticut or the southern Appalachian outbreaks (Fedde 1964).

Prior to 1965, gypsy moth outbreaks in Connecticut usually lasted only one, two, or three years. On two occasions, towns received defoliation for six consecutive years. Defoliation was recorded for five consecutive years in one other town and for four years in five other towns. Gypsy moth defoliation continued in Ledyard for six years starting in 1965. Eight consecutive years of defoliation started in Groton during 1967, and seven consecutive years of defoliation began in Sprague during 1968. Six consecutive years of defoliation in North Stonington and Preston began during 1967. Six consecutive years of defoliation started in Plainfield, Griswold, Canterbury, Scotland, and Lisbon during 1969.

The number of consecutive years of defoliation experienced in a given town is still usually three or less, although the number of towns where defoliation occurred for more than three years increased significantly during 1969-1974. The occurrence of successive years of defoliation is listed below. There were four towns where defoliation did not occur.

#### Consecutive Years of Defoliation In Connecticut Towns. 1969 - 1974

Years of Defoliation	Towns
2	46
3	52
4	31
5	6
6	7

Infestations of gypsy moths are no longer suppressed in Connecticut as they were prior to World War II (Friend 1945) and as late as 1963 (Turner 1963a). Some towns undertook suppression programs as late as 1971, but the majority decided to leave control efforts to individual landowners. The persistence of outbreaks in recent years may be indicative of the lack of control efforts or of better recording procedures.

#### Effects of Aerial Spraying on Defoliation

A few towns attempted to suppress the gypsy moth and elm spanworm using carbaryl from the air. Towns that were sprayed and the acreages treated are shown in Table 11. The results of six of the larger spraying programs are summarized below.

Woodland in the western half of Ledyard and northern part of Groton was sprayed in 1969. Large numbers of gypsy moth caterpillars were killed, but

4. This parasitoid of the elm spanworm was initially incorrectly identified as *Ooencyrtus clisiocampae* (Ashmead).

Table 11. Towns that aerial sprayed with carbaryl, 1969-71.<sup>1</sup>

Year	Town	Number acres sprayed
1969	Groton	2,885
	Ledyard	13,115
	Sprague	2,030
1970	Ledyard	8,500
	Lisbon	950
	Sprague	750
1971	Beacon Falls	3,225
	Derby	160
	Durham	2,637
	Haddam	6,197
	Old Saybrook	4,165
	Oxford	15,450
	Plainville	785
	Prospect	5,672
Wilton	2,588	

<sup>1</sup> Aerial spraying was carried out in several state parks and on a number of private properties in addition to the town spraying programs.

spraying did not prevent noticeable defoliation from occurring, nor did it prevent an outbreak of gypsy moths in some of the woodland in 1970. Inadequate mixing of the finished spray mixture was responsible in large part for the ineffectiveness.

A total of 8,500 acres in eastern Ledyard was treated in 1970. This prevented defoliation in treated areas. The areas that were left untreated were defoliated. The gypsy moth did not reach outbreak levels in Ledyard during 1971, but it is impossible to tell if spraying was responsible or if the infestation had collapsed naturally. North of Ledyard, in the southern part of Preston where no aerial spraying occurred, the gypsy moth population collapsed naturally. To the south of Ledyard, in Groton, no aerial spraying occurred in 1970, and the outbreak continued during 1971.

Old Saybrook sprayed 4,165 acres in 1971. This program prevented defoliation in the treated areas and reduced gypsy moths to such a low level that an outbreak did not occur in 1972.

Haddam sprayed 6,197 acres in 1971. Considerable defoliation was recorded, but most of it occurred in unsprayed woodland.

Oxford was also sprayed in 1971. Defoliation was prevented on the 15,450 treated acres. In 1972, little defoliation occurred in surrounding towns that had not been sprayed because gypsy moth and elm spanworm populations had collapsed from natural causes throughout much of the region. These data suggest that extensive defoliation would have been prevented in Oxford in 1972, even without spraying the previous year.

Prospect had an aerial spraying program in 1971 but it was delayed until considerable defoliation had already occurred. The lower intensity of defoliation in the treated southern part of the town compared to that recorded for the unsprayed northern part of Bethany indicated that some foliage protection was achieved. No defoliation occurred in Prospect during 1972; little also occurred in surrounding towns which had not been sprayed the year before. These data, like those presented in the previous paragraph, suggest that no defoliation would have occurred in Prospect during 1972 even if the town had not been sprayed in 1971.

### Dispersal

The gypsy moth disperses naturally as wind-blown first instar larvae (Burgess 1913, Collins 1915). Long distance movement such as its introduction into the United States in the late 1860's and transportation into new areas is caused by man. The dispersal mechanisms of the elm spanworm are less well known. Wind-blown newly-hatched larvae (Taylor and Tsao 1962, Drooz 1970) or migrating females (Fedde 1964) may be responsible for dispersal. References to air currents carrying large numbers of larvae up mountain slopes (Fedde 1964, Drooz 1970, 1971) coupled with the low proportion of females in the commonly observed adult flights (Taylor and Tsao 1962, Fedde 1964, Lund 1965) suggest that dispersal is primarily by wind-blown larvae. Figures 1-6 illustrate the general northward and eastward movement of infestations of the gypsy moth and elm spanworm during 1969-74.

The gypsy moth infestation in the Ledyard-North Stonington area in 1969, with scattered outbreaks as far north as Scotland, Canterbury and Plainfield, appeared to have moved in part north and eastward, reaching Killingly and Putnam five years later. Other portions of the infestation appear to have coalesced in 1973 with a larger infestation to the northwest in the Ashford-Willington area.

In 1970, the gypsy moth had dispersed eastward in North Stonington to the Rhode Island border, to the northeast in Preston and Griswold and to the north in Plainfield. The scattered infestations in Canterbury, Lisbon, Scotland and Sprague in 1969 became a general outbreak in 1970 and spread northward into Brooklyn, Pomfret, Hampton and Chaplin, and westward into Windham. In 1971 the infestation near the Connecticut-Rhode Island border extended from Stonington to Sterling. Defoliation had progressed northward in Pomfret and north-westward into Mansfield, Willington, and Ashford. The infestation continued northward along the Connecticut-Rhode Island border during 1972, reaching into southern Killingly. Its northward spread continued in 1973 with defoliation occurring in central and northern Killingly. The infestation reached into Putnam in 1974. A general

infestation with multiple origins, including the Ledyard-Canterbury infestation of 1969, was evident to the north and south of the Ashford-Willington area in 1973 and in the Stafford-Union-Woodstock areas in 1974.

The large infestation comprised of both species in the western half of Connecticut in 1970 moved east and north in succeeding years. In 1971, defoliation spread into towns to the north and east of those infested the previous year. Along the eastern side of the Connecticut River, gypsy moth outbreaks arose independently from, or were extensions of, infestations just to the west of the river. Dispersal continued in easterly and northerly directions in 1972. Defoliation was prevalent in towns to the north of those defoliated the previous year, and in many towns to the east of the Connecticut River but west of the Thames River. Many infestations which may have arisen independently in previous years were engulfed by the larger infestation that was spreading across the state. Gypsy moth outbreaks along the Connecticut-New York border occurred for the first time in Sharon and Cornwall during 1973, and were probably extensions of the infestations to the south in previous years. To the east of the Connecticut River, infestations of gypsy moth had dispersed eastward and northward into areas not defoliated the year before.

In 1974, outbreaks of gypsy moth near the Connecticut-New York border occurred for the first time in southern Salisbury, and had moved eastward through Warren and Cornwall into Goshen and Litchfield. It is possible that the outbreaks in northwestern Salisbury arose from infestations to the west in New York State. Infestations east of the Connecticut River were most extensive in towns bordering Massachusetts.

The dispersal of the gypsy moth (Burgess 1913) and apparently of the elm spanworm is passive and in the direction of the prevailing winds. In Connecticut prevailing winds from May to October are southerly and southwesterly along the coastal plain and into the central lowlands (Brumbach 1965). Local winds differing from these paths exist.

Dispersal of newly-hatched larvae may occur in Connecticut from about April 27 to May 21. Gypsy moth dispersal may occur at wind velocities as low as 2 mph (Collins 1915), although most dispersal apparently occurs at velocities of 8-15 mph or more (Collins 1915, Burgess 1913, Minnett 1922). Even though some dispersal may occur at temperatures below 55°F (Leonard 1971), most occurs above 55°F (Burgess 1913, Collins 1915, Leonard 1971). Few larvae are dispersed during periods of rain or darkness (Leonard 1971).

To assess more closely the role of wind, weather data from two locations were examined for the periods when larvae were most likely to have dispersed. The wind directions at three-hour inter-

vals during the day when temperatures were 55°F or above and no precipitation recorded were calculated from April 27 to May 21 for 1969-74. The publications, Climatological Data for Hartford and Bridgeport, were used to compile the statistics. In Hartford, the wind tended to blow more often out of the southeast than from the other directions (Table 12). The wind blew less often from the northeast than from the other quadrants, and significantly so in comparison to at least one other quadrant during four of the years. In Bridgeport, the wind blew more frequently from the southwest than any of the other quadrants in all six years. The wind blew significantly more often from this direction than at least one other direction in four of the years.

Table 12. Frequency of wind flow from specific directional quadrants during April 2 through May 21, 1969-74.

Weather station	Year	Total number of recordings	Percentage of wind recordings from specific directions <sup>2</sup>			
			NE	SE	SW	NW
Hartford	1969	110	11.8a <sup>3</sup>	33.6 b	26.4ab	28.2ab
	1970	108	13.8a	35.1 b	25.0ab	25.9ab
	1971	67	20.8a	25.3a	23.8a	29.9a
	1972	91	15.3a	28.5a	27.4a	28.5a
	1973	90	11.0a	38.9 b	24.4ab	25.6 b
	1974	87	12.6a	32.2 b	18.4ab	36.8 b
Bridgeport	1969 <sup>1</sup>	94	6.4a	18.1a	60.6 b	14.9a
	1970	106	25.4a	24.5a	34.9a	15.1a
	1971	70	17.1a	17.1a	38.6a	27.1a
	1972	96	26.0ab	26.0ab	35.4a	12.5 b
	1973	72	8.3a	27.8ab	47.2 b	16.7a
	1974	94	10.6a	16.0a	52.1 b	21.3a

<sup>1</sup>The 3 hr wind velocities were not published from Bridgeport during April 27 through April 30, 1969.

<sup>2</sup>Wind directions were calculated from data recorded when daylight temperatures were 55° or higher and when there was no precipitation.

<sup>3</sup>Percentages in same row followed by same letter not significantly different at 5% probability level by chi-square analysis using Yate's correction factor.

The frequencies with which winds blew at 11 mph or more from a given cardinal direction were calculated as shown in Table 13. Winds blew more frequently from the south than from the north during each of the six years in Hartford and five of the years in Bridgeport, and significantly so in two of the years in both locations. Winds out of the west occurred more frequently than those from the east in all six years in Hartford and Bridgeport. They blew significantly more often from the west in Bridgeport in 1969, 1973 and 1974.



Table 13. Frequency of wind flow from the north and south and from the east and west during April 27 through May 21, 1969-74 when wind velocities were 11 or more mph.

Weather station	Year	Total number of recordings	Percentage of wind recordings from specific directions <sup>2</sup>			
			N	S	E	W
Hartford	1969	82	36.6a <sup>3</sup>	63.4 b	40.2a	59.8a
	1970	57	26.3a	73.7 b	45.6a	54.4a
	1971	35	42.9a	57.1a	37.1a	62.9a
	1972	37	43.2a	56.8a	32.4a	67.6a
	1973	53	30.2a	69.8a	47.2a	52.8a
	1974	48	42.0a	58.0a	46.0a	54.0a
Bridgeport	1969 <sup>1</sup>	70	17.1a	82.9 b	17.1a	82.9 b
	1970	58	50.0a	50.0a	43.1a	56.9a
	1971	43	41.9a	58.1a	34.9a	65.1a
	1972	60	43.3a	56.7a	46.7a	53.3a
	1973	51	23.5a	76.5 b	23.5a	76.5 b
	1974	59	40.1a	59.9a	18.6a	81.4 b

<sup>1</sup>The 3 hr wind velocities were not published from Bridgeport during April 27 through April 30, 1969.

<sup>2</sup>Wind directions were calculated from data recorded when daylight temperatures were 55° or higher and when there was no precipitation.

<sup>3</sup>X<sup>2</sup> analyses were run comparing the frequency with which the wind blew from the north and the south, and from the west and the east. Percentages in the same row under the columns headed N & S followed by same letter were not significantly different at 5% probability level by chi square analysis. Similarly, percentages in the same row under the columns headed E & W followed by the same letter were not significantly different at 5% probability level by chi square analysis. Yate's correction factor was used in all analyses.

During that time of the year when gypsy moth and elm spanworm larvae were most likely to disperse, winds of 11 mph or more tended to occur more frequently from the west than from the east and from the south than from the north. Southwesterly winds prevailed along the shore in Bridgeport. In the upland region in Hartford, winds blew more often out of the southeast and less often from the northeast. Where winds occur frequently from the southeast, dispersal may be to the northwest although prevailing westerly winds may often offset the movement to the west. It would appear that the general spread of these insects to the north and east during 1969-1974 is a result of winds tending to blow more frequently from the south and west.

Data show that outbreaks of gypsy moth are now persisting for longer periods of time, and that the main directions of dispersal are to the north and east. It thus appears that future infestations in southern or western areas of Connecticut may spread across the state and even into adjacent states as the infestations have done during the early 1970's.

#### Acknowledgements

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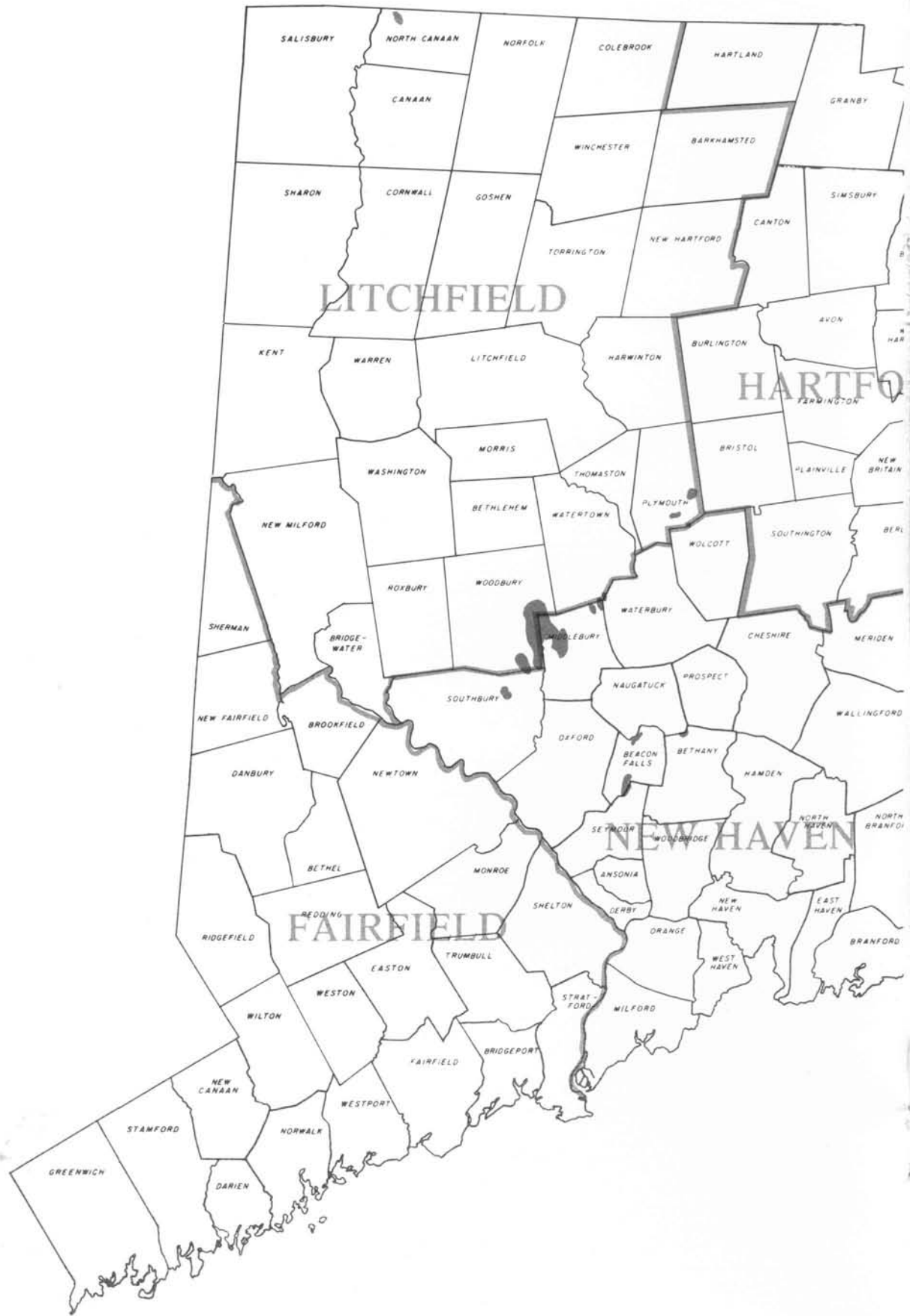
## References Cited

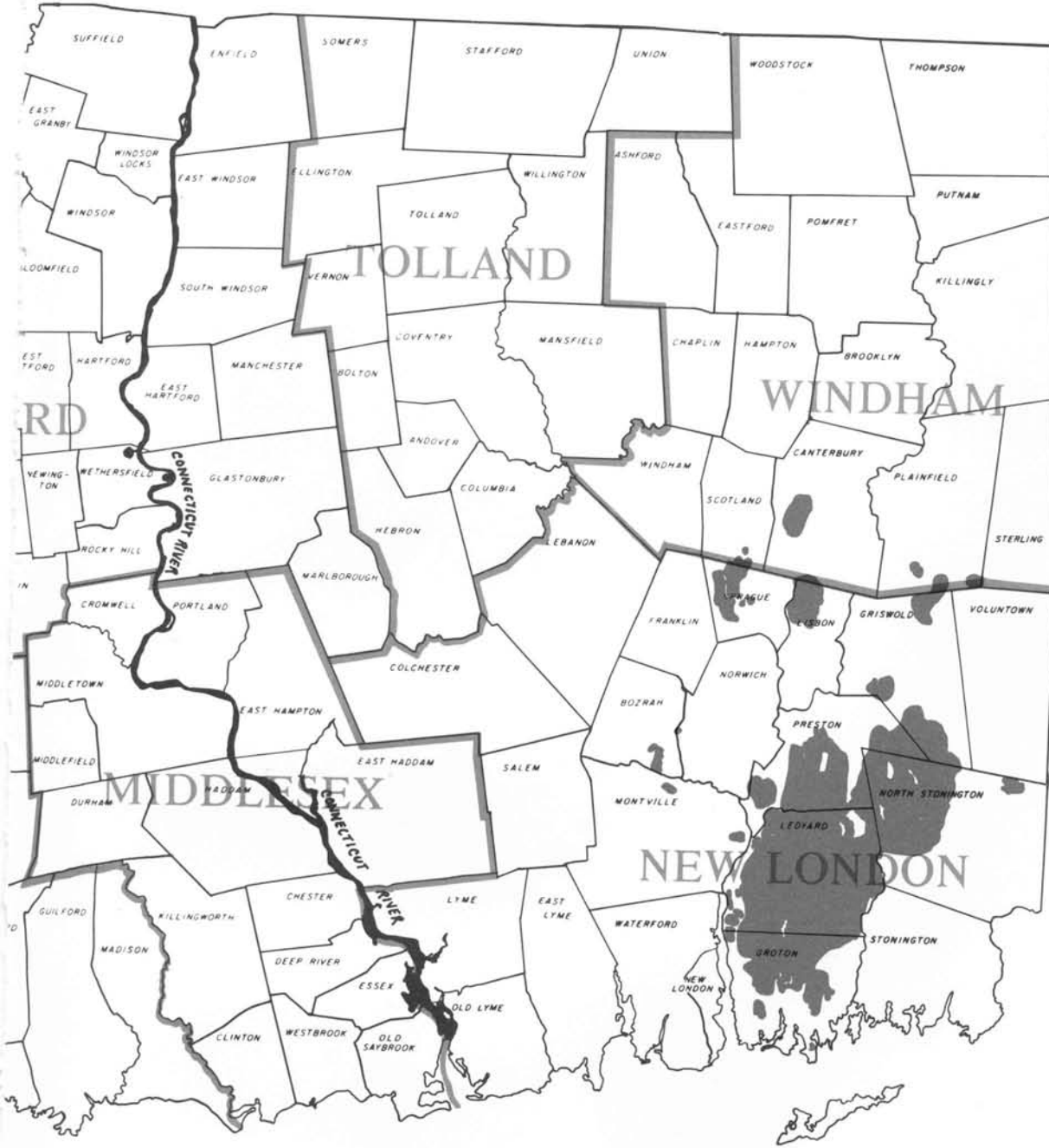
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## **About the maps**

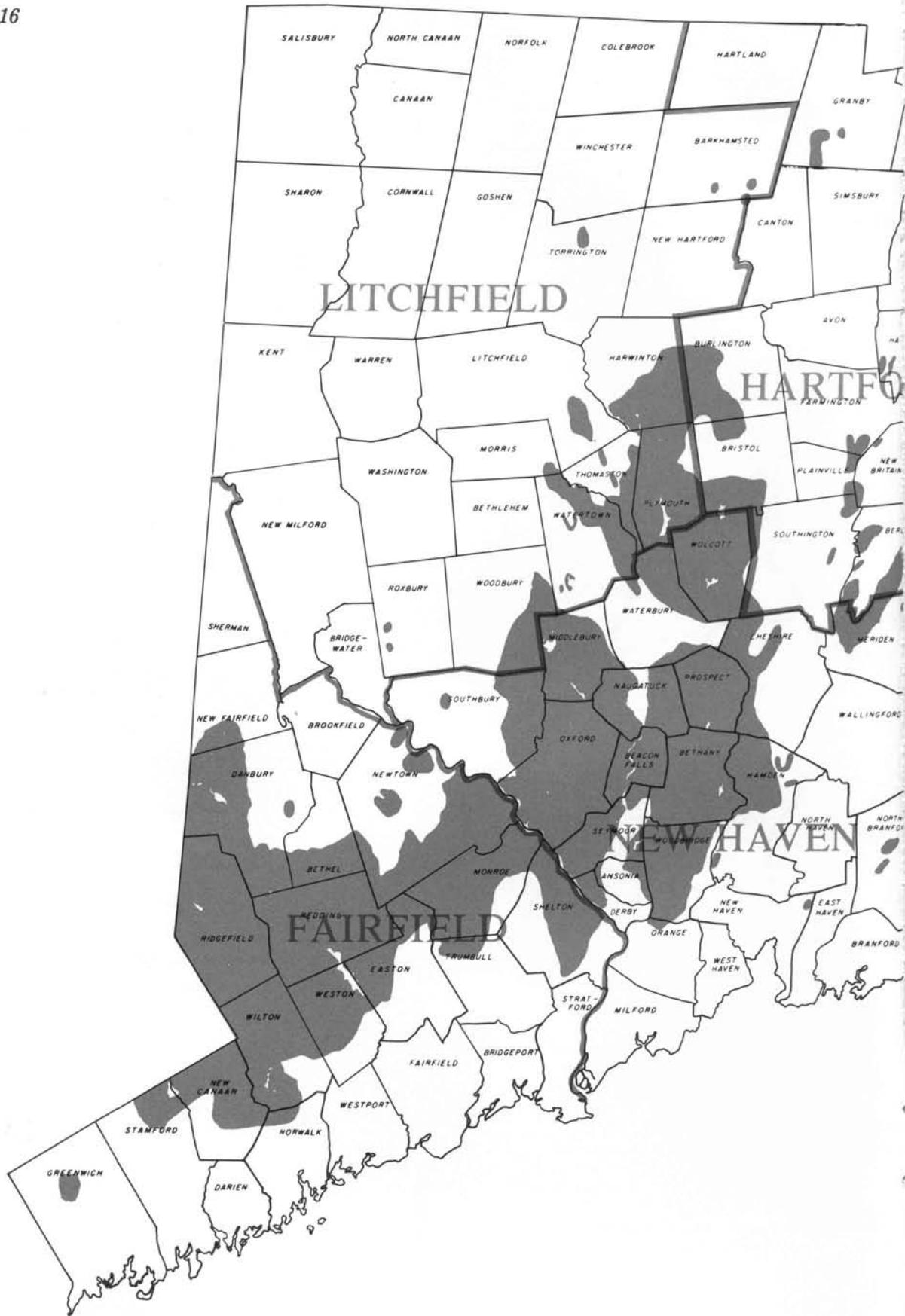
The following maps show the location and the intensity of defoliation experienced in Connecticut during 1969-74. Although Table 10 shows four categories of defoliation, the 10-25% and 26-50% categories have been combined on the maps for this period. The maps for 1969 and 1970 show defoliation of 10% or more, and can be compared only with all three shades of green used on the other maps.

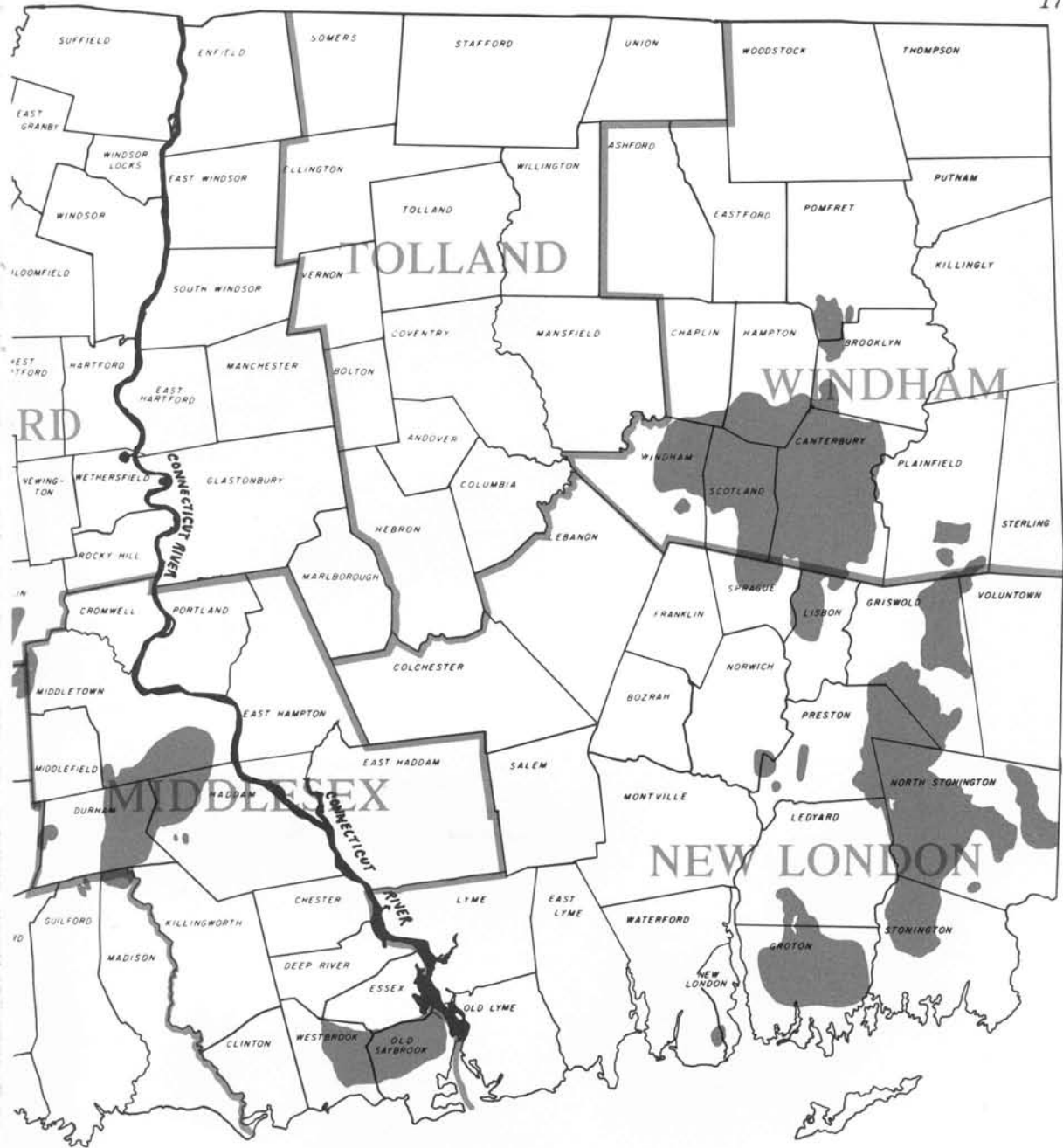




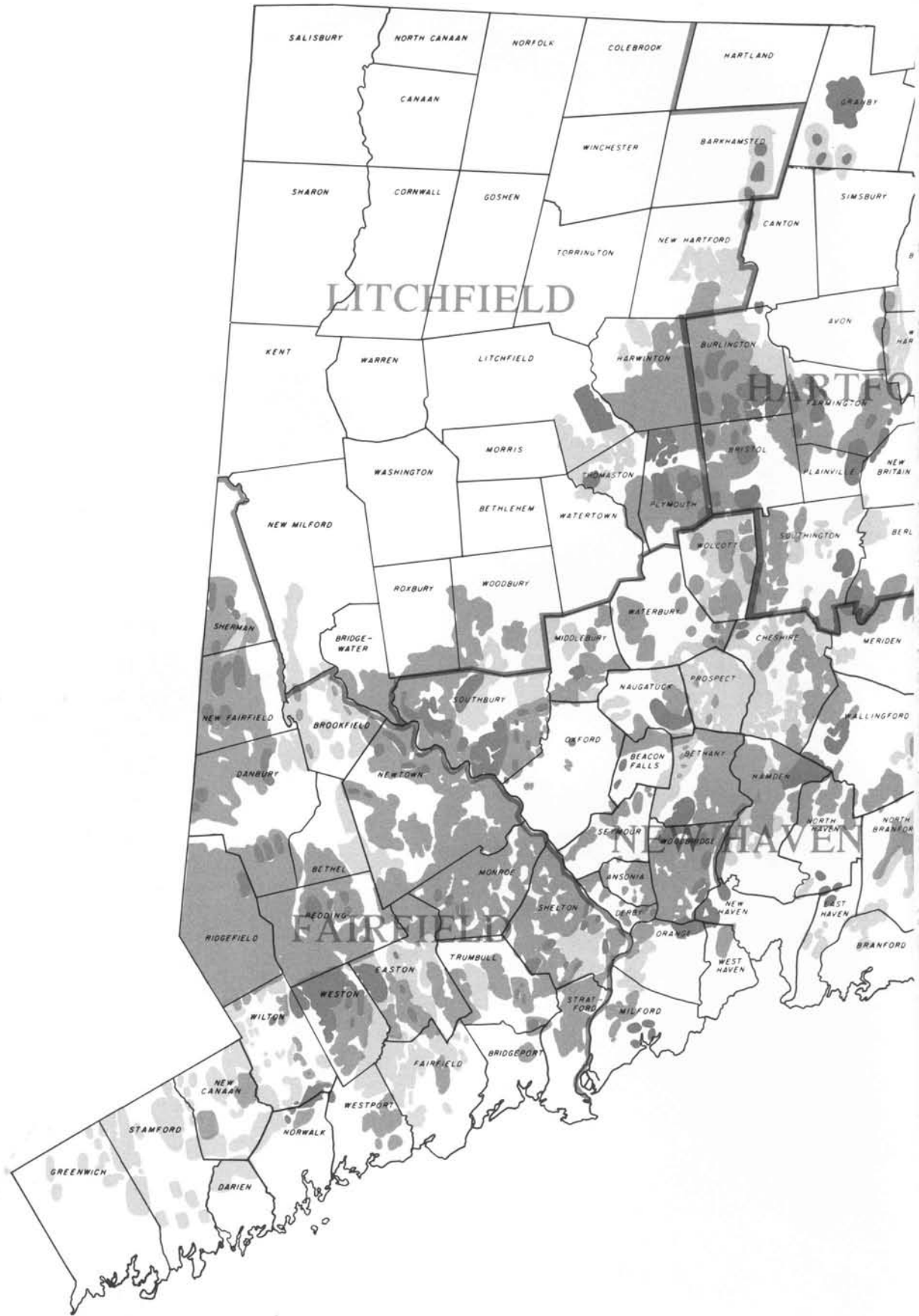


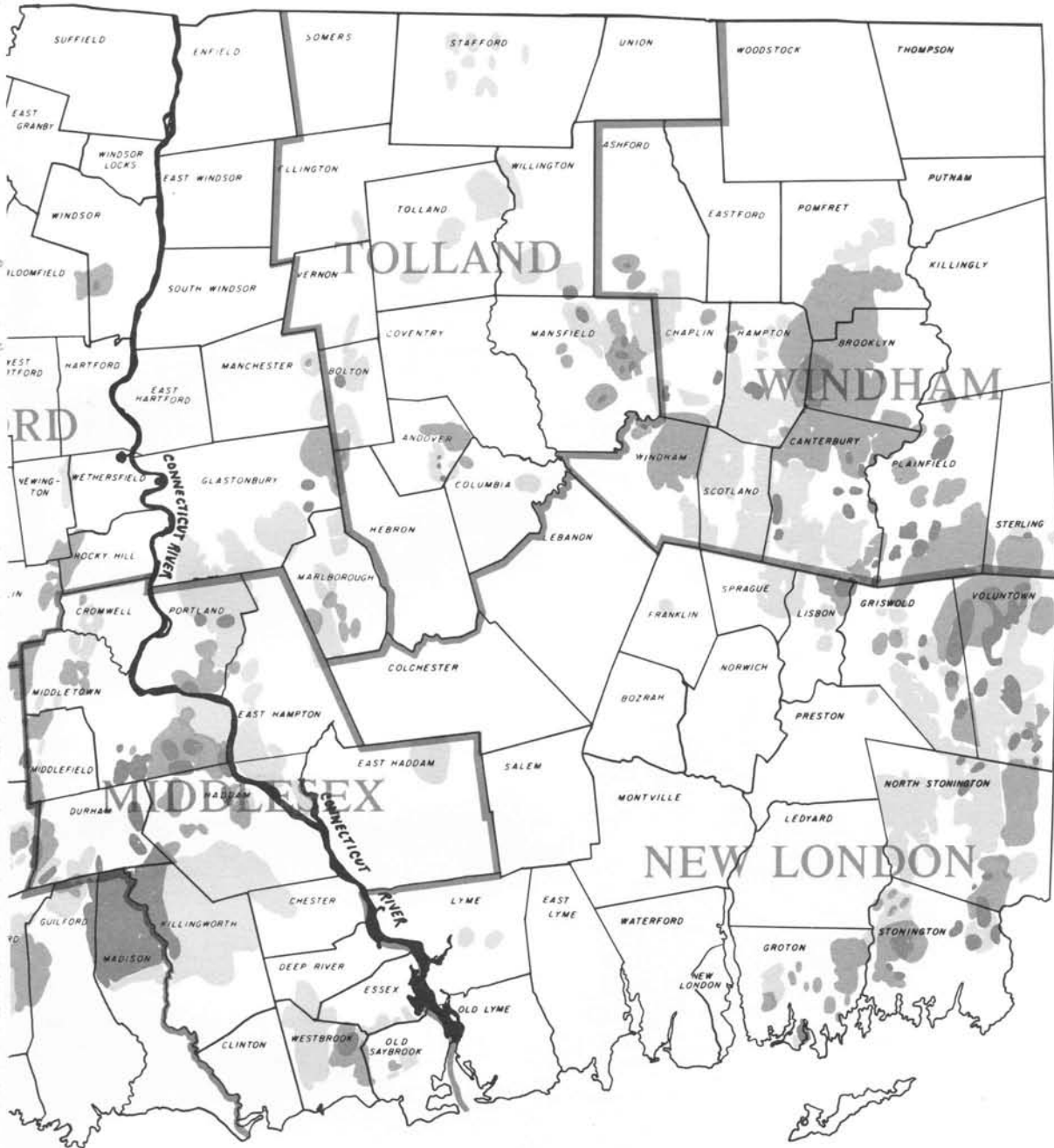
**Fig. 1 Defoliation, 1969**  
10 - 100%








**Fig. 2 Defoliation, 1970**  
10 - 100%

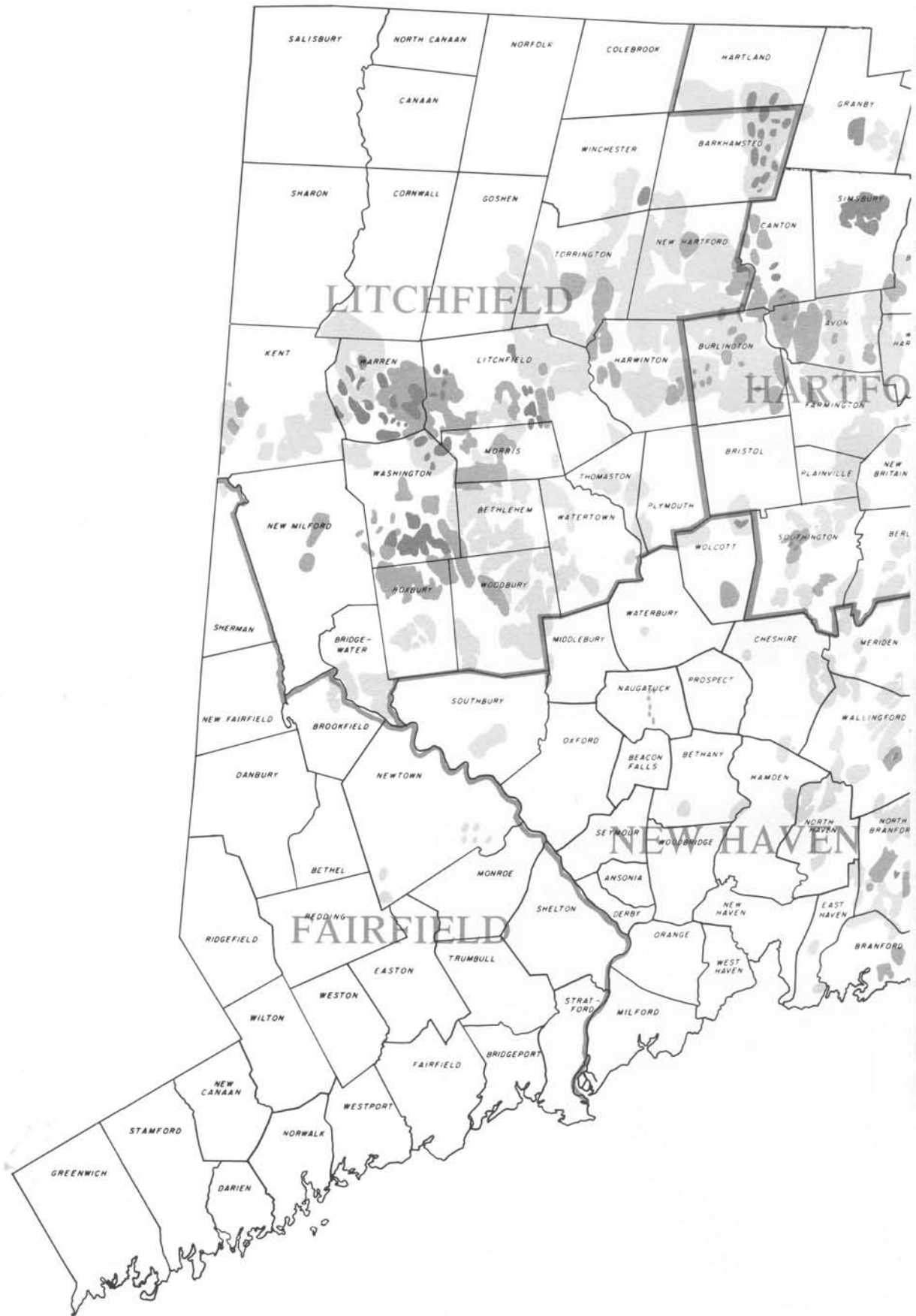


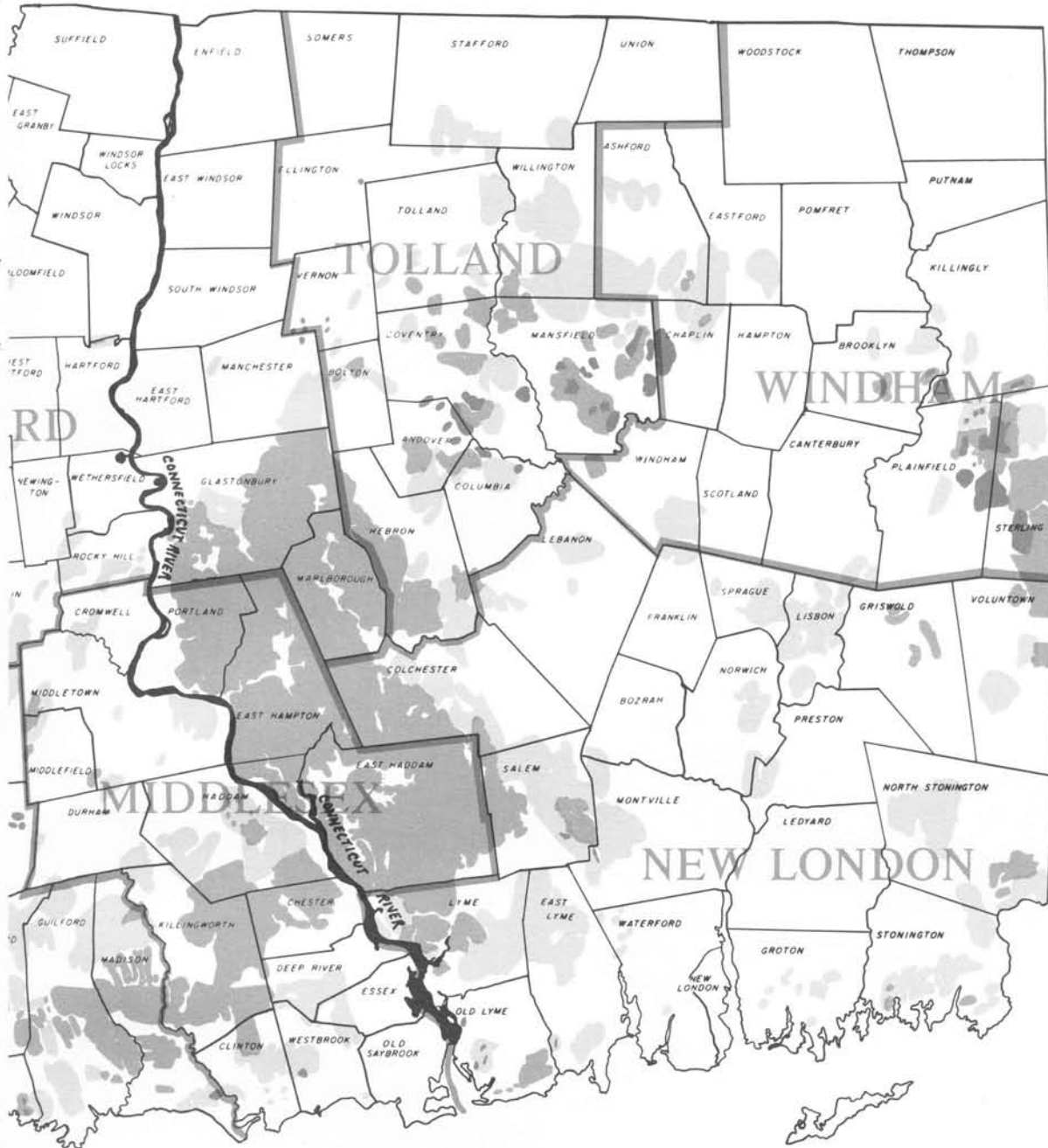


**Fig. 3 Defoliation, 1971**




	10 - 50%
	51 - 75%
	76 - 100%

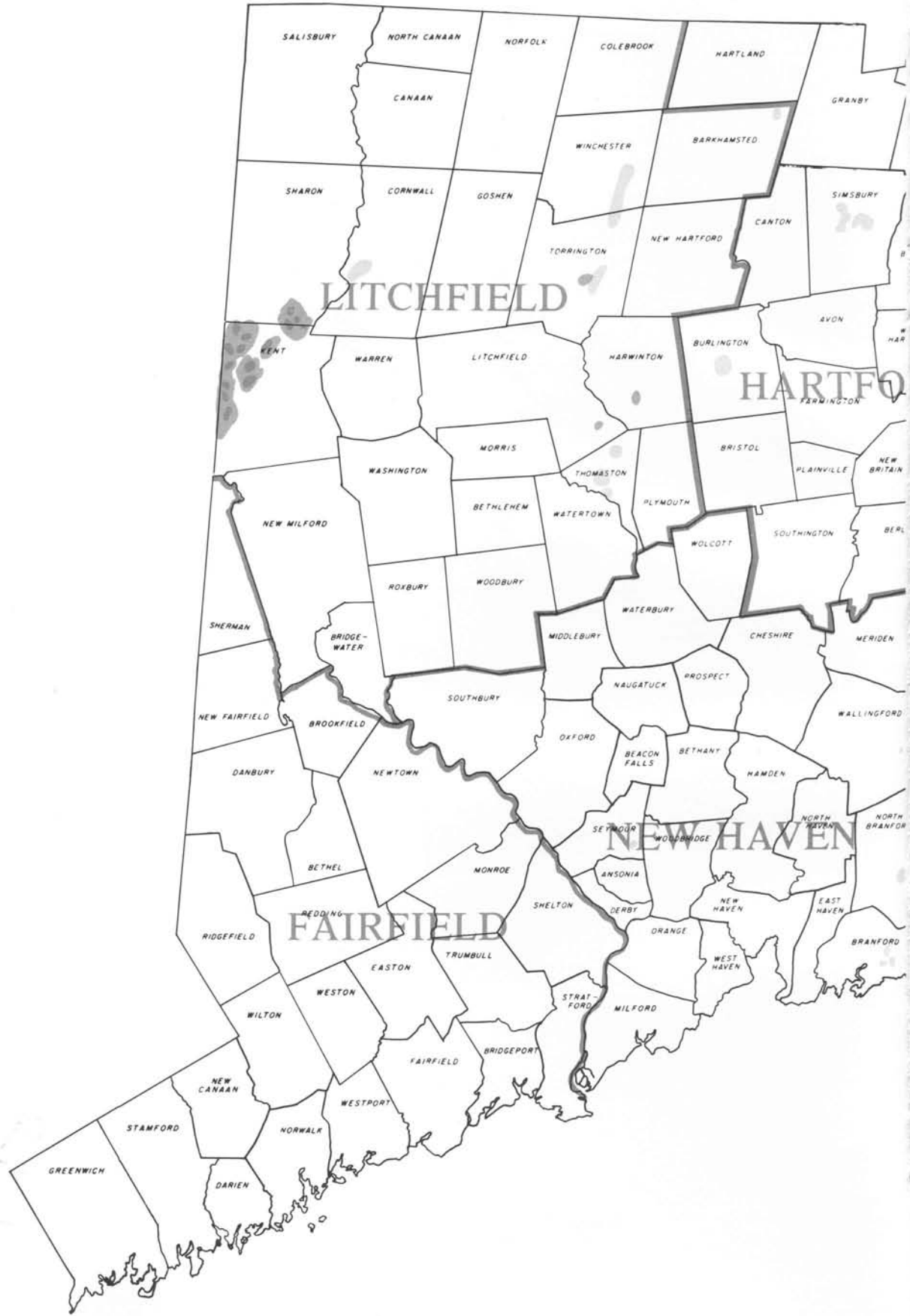







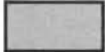

**Fig. 4 Defoliation, 1972**

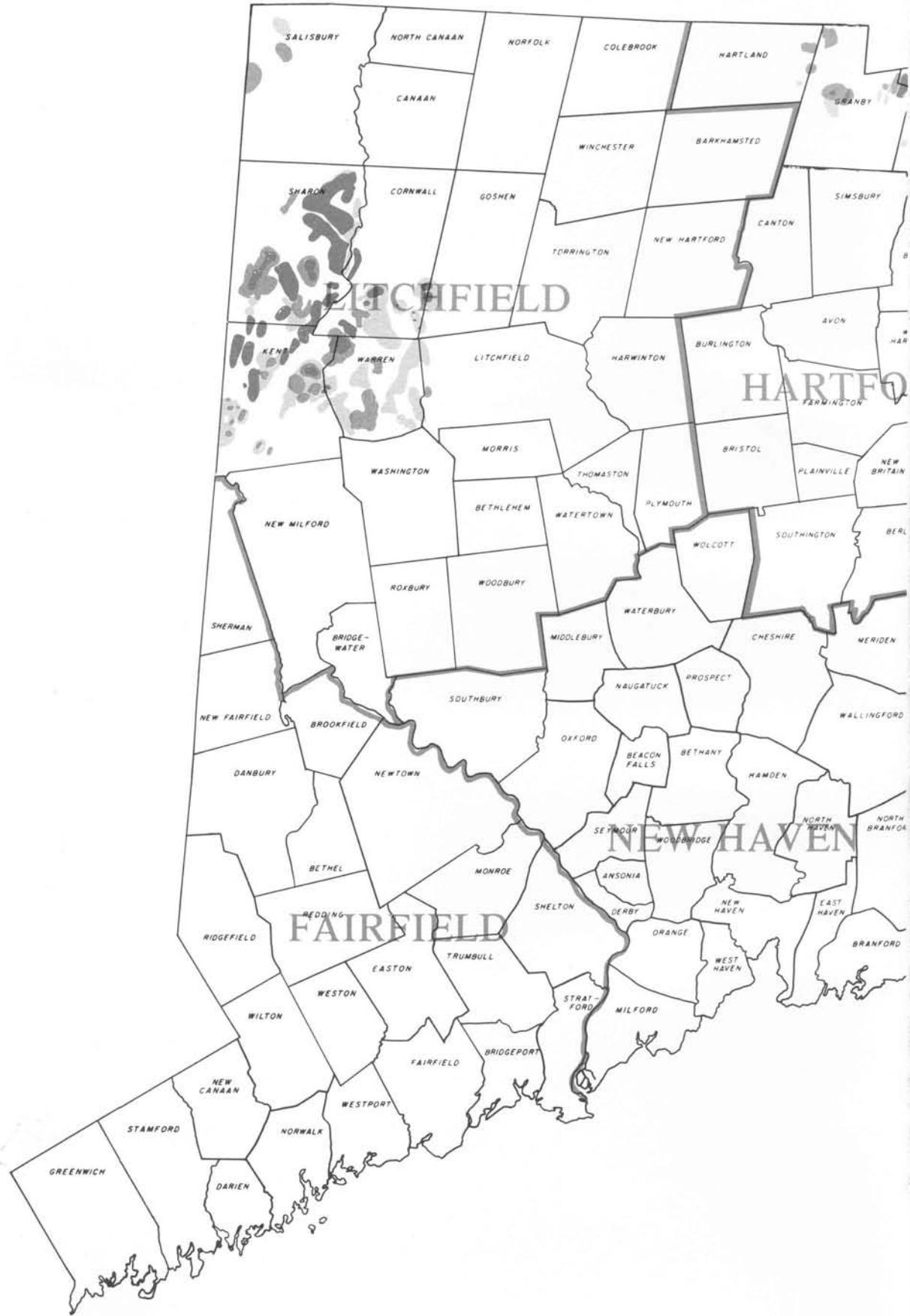
	10 - 50%
	51 - 75%
	76 - 100%

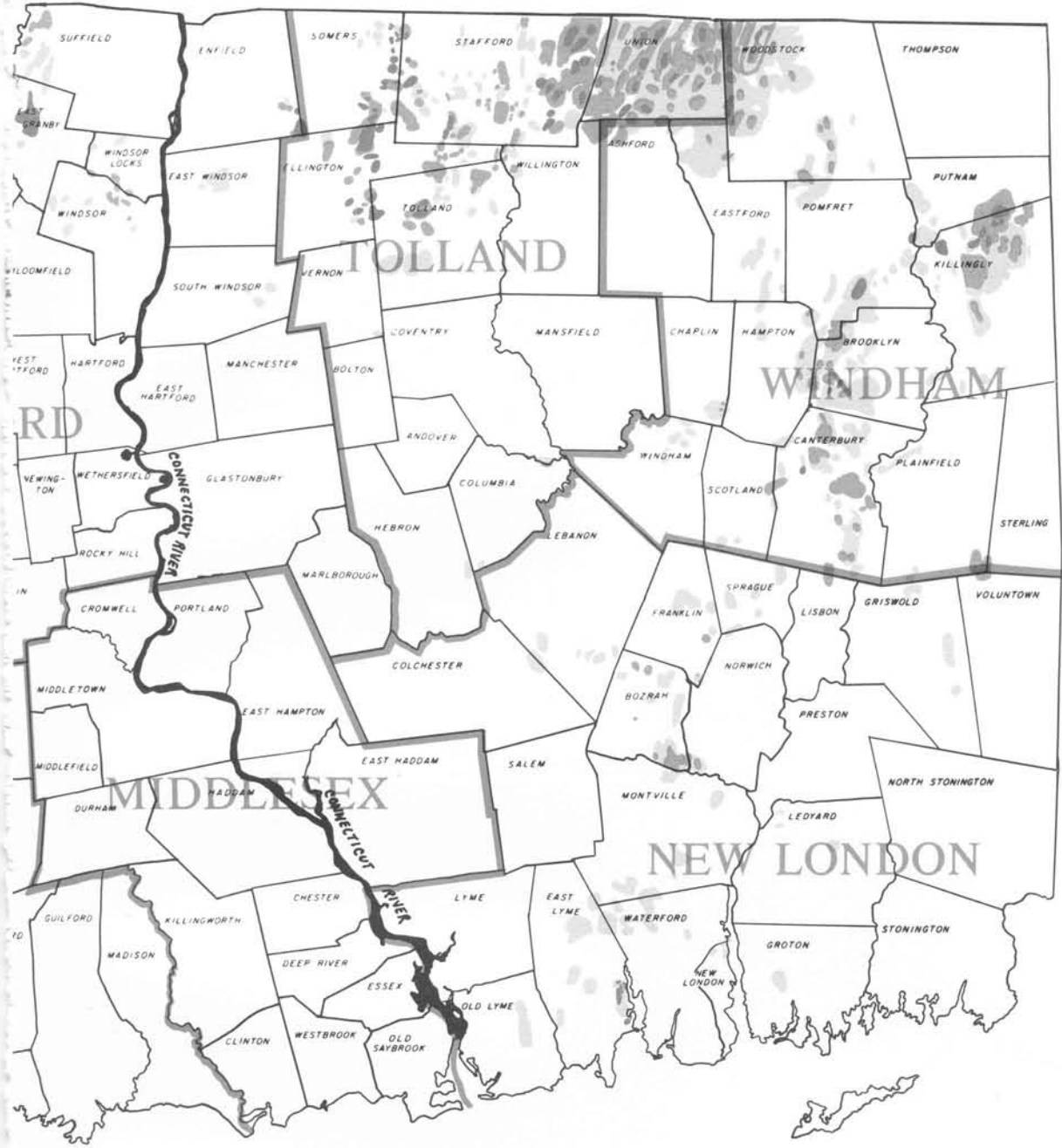







**Fig. 5 Defoliation, 1973**

	10 - 50%
	51 - 75%
	76 - 100%





**Fig. 6 Defoliation, 1974**

	10 - 50%
	51 - 75%
	76 - 100%