



Pine Beetle in BC and climate change

The mountain pine beetle prefers mature timber (e.g. 80 year old lodgepole pine trees are mature).

B.C. is believed to have three times more mature lodgepole pine than it did over 90 years ago, mainly because equipment and techniques for protecting forests against wildfire have greatly improved over time

Hot and dry summers leave pine drought-stressed and more susceptible to attack by the mountain pine beetle.

BC Ministry of Forests website

Dendroctonus ponderosae

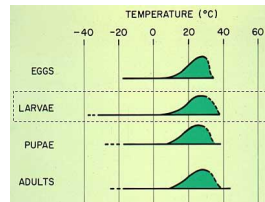


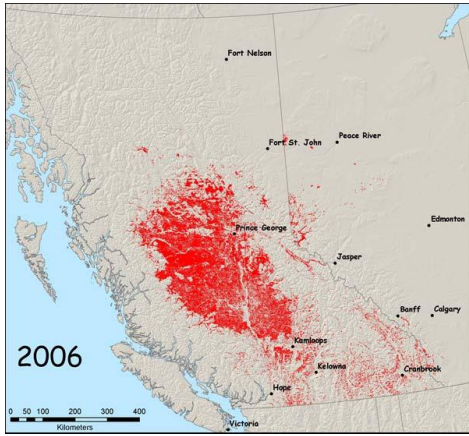
Cold weather kills the mountain pine beetle. Mountain pine beetle eggs, pupae and young larvae are the most susceptible to freezing temperatures.

In the winter, temperatures must consistently be below -35 Celsius or -40 Celsius for several straight days to kill off large portions of mountain pine beetle populations. In the early fall or late spring, sustained temperatures of -25 Celsius can freeze mountain pine beetle populations to death.

A sudden cold snap is more lethal in the fall, before the mountain pine beetles are able to build up their natural anti-freeze (glycerol) levels.

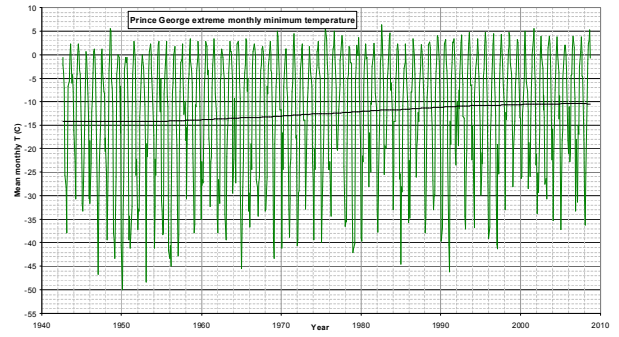
BC Ministry of Forests website





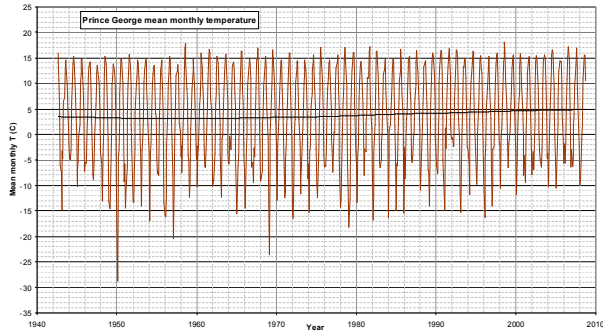
BC Ministry of Forests website

Prince George extreme monthly minimums



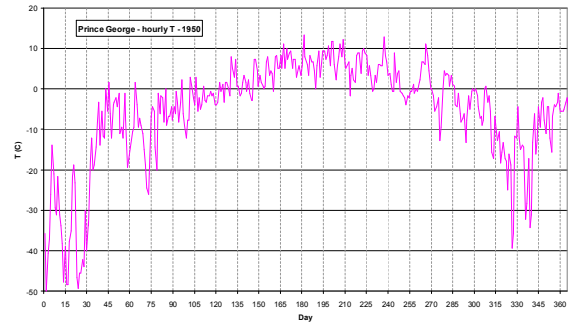
Environment Canada

Prince George mean temperature since 1943



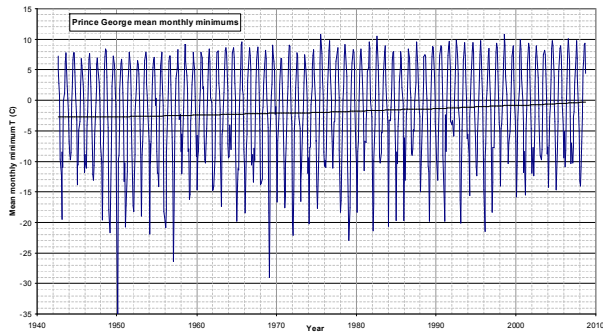
Environment Canada

Prince George daily T for 1950



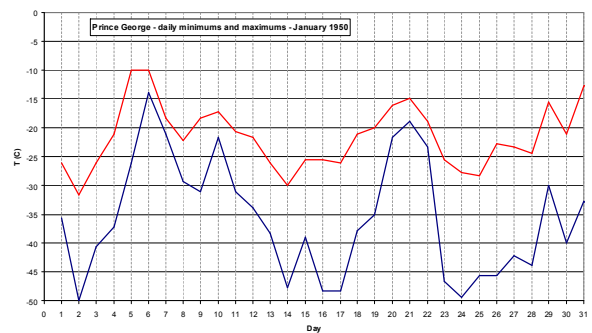
Environment Canada

Prince George mean monthly minimums



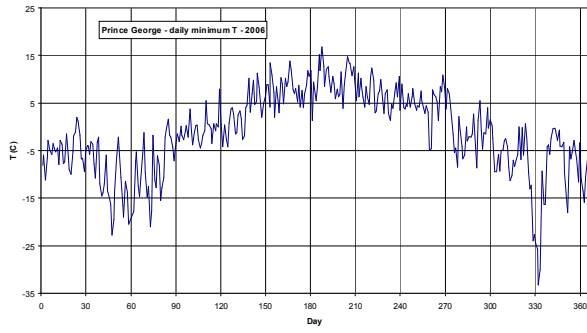
Environment Canada

Prince George daily min-max for January 1950



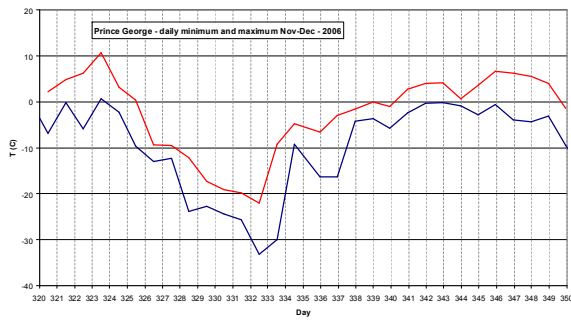
Environment Canada

Prince George daily minimums for 2006



Environment Canada

Prince George daily min-max for Nov-Dec 2006



Environment Canada