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NEWS

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PERHAPS VITAMIN A WILL HELP?

MISSOULA --

Have you seen a mineral-deficient lodgepole pine lately? Scientists at the University of Montana are looking for one.

Dr. Mark Behan, an assistant professor of botany at the Missoula school, explains that mineral-deficient lodgepoles occur in nature but cannot be recognized since no one knows what they look like. To fill this gap in scientific knowledge, Dr. Behan is inducing deficiencies to lodgepoles in a UM greenhouse. He hopes to determine mineral deficiency indicators to identify similarly afflicted trees in the woods. And then, he explains, field fertilizations plots will be established to nurse the ailing trees back to a full and fertile life.

Dr. Behan's research is supported by a \$1,000 grant from the U.S. Forest Service.

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