Sawflies

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Sawflies: order Hymenoptera
Dusky winged sawfly of birch

All sawfly larvae have more than 5 pairs of abdominal appendages called “Prolegs”
Many sawfly species feed in mass groups
If disturbed they act together posing like snakes
Dusky birch sawfly’s primary host is River birch, but sometimes grey, black, red paper and yellow birch are also attacked.
Sawfly damage on birch from dusky sawfly—small and being green are hard to see at first.
The first generation larvae feed from May to early July. The second, overlapping generation feeds though September.
Sawfly adult - dusky winged sawfly of birch – flies during the day
Control

• Low populations – the birch is a continual leaf flusher and will re-leaf out if lots of rain or irrigation

• Chemical control:
  • Safest: Spinosad (Conserve)
  • Systemic insecticide Acelepyrn,
  • Neem (Azatin or Neemazod applied to early instars)
  • Insecticidal soap if you can get through coverage
  • Orthene
Gray dogwood – *Cornus racemosa* – great for shade- native dogwood that is becoming more popular
Dogwood sawfly
Macremphytus tarsatus Order Hymenoptera, Family Tenthredinidae
• Adult sawflies emerge in late spring and lay their eggs on the undersides of leaves.
• When the eggs hatch in mid-summer, the first stage larvae are tiny, yellow, and translucent. As they grow and molt, they become covered with a white waxy coating.
• They usually spend the daylight hours curled up and clinging to the underside of leaves. They can be quite gregarious, with a dozen or more congregating on one leaf.
Early instar larvae covered in white wax
Sawfly of Cornus racemosa
July 31 2013 defoliated gray dogwood
Sawfly control

- Spinosad (Conserve)
- Acelpyrn
- Bifenthrin
- Permethrin
Hardy hibiscus very popular in the landscape- tough perennial for full sun
Sawfly of hibiscus - Hibiscus Sawfly, Atomacera decepta
HYMENOPTERA: ARGIDAE
Females lay multiple rows of six disc-like eggs in leaf tissue near the margins causing brown blisters near the leaf tip.
Adult seen in early morning in June on foliage
Early damage

Extensive damage
Female has saw-like ovipositor to lay eggs. Look for adults in morning hours when it is cool.
Hibiscus sawfly

- Adult activity and egg laying may take place from late May through the growing season until the first frost. Eggs are laid in older leaves and hatch in about a week. Well-camouflaged larvae feed in groups on the undersides of leaves but leave the upper epidermis intact.
Brown headed sawfly on maple June 2010
Brown headed sawflies in June red maple
Sawfly on pines

- European pine sawfly
The European Pine Sawfly, *Neodiprion sertifer* (Geoffroy), as its name suggests, is native to Europe.

The european pine sawfly has a preference for mugo (*Pinus mugo*), Scotch (*Pinus sylvestris*), red (*Pinus resinosa*), jack (*Pinus banksiana*) and Japanese red(*Pinus densiflora*) pines. It feeds to a lesser extent on white (*Pinus strobus*), Austrian (*Pinus nigra*),
• The adults emerge from the cocoons and mate. In September and October the female slits the edge of the needle and lays her eggs inside the opening. There are 6 - 8 eggs in a single needle and she lays eggs in 10 - 12 needles
Hatching occurs in late April and May in Maryland and the larvae feed until late May and early June. When mature, most larvae drop to the ground and spin brown cocoons.
Red-headed pine sawfly
Redheaded pine sawfly
The larvae prefer to feed on the needles of eastern white pine but also will eat Scotch, red, Austrian, jack, and Swiss mountain pine.
Redheaded pine sawfly

- There are two generations each year, larvae can be found feeding in late June and in late August to early September. They feed gregariously on new and old needles, as well as the tender bark of young twigs. They generally feed downward from the top. Mature larvae drop to the soil and pupate; they pass the winter in this stage.
Roses- Bush types very popular in landscapes
Sawflies – problems in rose land
Rose damaged by Roseslug sawfly
Roseslug sawfly, *Endelomyia aethiops*
Feeding on undersides of foliage
Rose slug sawfly
Pearslug sawfly – common on roses
Biological control:
Several parasitoids have been introduced to control this pest. Native birds feed on the larvae. Sawfly populations are often controlled by a nuclear polyhedrosis virus. Affected larvae are limp and hang head down from the plant. Rodents often eat the pupae in the soil. However, these natural predators are usually not abundant in urban settings
Sawfly – your choice to control or not