Brownheaded ash sawfly
*Tomostethus multicinctus*
Order Hymenoptera, Family Tenthredinidae; common sawflies
Introduced pest

**Host plants:** Red and white ash

**Description:** Adult sawflies are wasp-like. Larvae are 15–20 mm in length. They are greenish or yellowish white with brown heads.

**Life history:** Pupation occurs in the spring. Adults emerge and deposit eggs in leaves. Larvae feed in May through June. There is one generation a year.

**Overwintering:** Prepupae in silk-lined cells in the topsoil.

**Damage symptoms:** Brownheaded ash sawfly larvae feed voraciously, consuming entire leaves. Complete defoliation can occur quickly on heavily infested trees.

**Monitoring:** Look for larvae from early May through June or for damage symptoms such as skeletonization or defoliation, particularly on terminal leaves.

**Physical control:** Manually remove larvae and colonies.

**Chemical control:** As sawflies often feed in groups, all chemicals should be directed to the areas on which they are feeding only and need not necessarily cover the entire tree.

**Biological control:** No reports of natural enemies

**Plant mortality risk:** Low

**Biorational pesticides:** azadirachtin, horticultural oil, insecticidal soap, spinosad, pyrethrins

**Conventional pesticides:** acephate, bifenthrin, carbaryl, chlorpyrifos (nursery only), cyfluthrin, deltamethrin, fluvialinate, imidacloprid, lambda-cyhalothrin, malathion, permethrin

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**Egg laying wound damage caused by brownheaded ash sawfly. (36)**

Photo: Whitney Cranshaw

**Shothole damage caused by young brownheaded ash sawfly larvae. Larger larvae feed on leaf margins. (35)**

Photo: Whitney Cranshaw

**Defoliation caused by brownheaded ash sawfly larvae feeding on green ash leaf. (33)**

Photo: James Solomon, USDA Forest Service, The Bugwood Network, University of Georgia.
Brownheaded ash sawfly (continued)

Brownheaded ash sawfly adult. (37)
Photo: Whitney Cranshaw

Brownheaded ash sawfly larva. (38)
Photo: Whitney Cranshaw