**Dusky birch sawfly**

*Crosus latitarsus*

Order Hymenoptera, Family Tenthredinidae; common sawflies  
Native pest

**Host plants:** Birch (*Betula*) species

**Description:** Adults are wasp-like insects approximately 12 mm long. Larvae are approximately 24 mm long when fully grown. They are yellow-green with black blotches on their sides and a black head.

**Life history:** Larvae feed in groups on the edges of leaves. First generation larvae feed from May to early July. A second, overlapping generation may occur and feed through September. If they are disturbed, larvae assume an S-shaped posture.

**Overwintering:** Pupae in the soil.

**Damage symptoms:** Small trees may be defoliated, but heavy defoliation by this insect is rare.

**Monitoring:** Look in early July and then again in September for larvae feeding on leaf margins.

**Physical control:** Remove and destroy small populations by hand.

**Chemical control:** Horticultural oil sprays are very effective against young larvae as long as there is good coverage. Other insecticides may be used against larger larvae, but there is no need to spray after the larvae reach 25 mm in length, as they stop feeding at that point.

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

**Plant mortality risk:** Low

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

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