**Pear sawfly**

*Caliroa cerasi*

Order Hymenoptera, Family Tenthredinidae; common sawflies

Introduced pest

**Host plants:** Cherry, cotoneaster, hawthorn, mountain-ash, pear and plum

**Description:** Adult sawflies are 5–8 mm long, black and yellow, and stout bodied. Larvae are slimy, slug-like, and shiny olive-green to blackish in color. They are 12 mm long when full grown.

**Life history:** Adults emerge early in June and lay single eggs on leaf undersides. Larvae appear in June, feed for about a month, then drop to the soil to pupate. A second generation can begin in early August.

**Overwintering:** Prepupae in the soil.

**Damage symptoms:** Larvae feed on upper leaf surfaces, leaving only the leaf veins. Heavy defoliation gives the tree a scorched appearance, and leaves may drop prematurely. Severe defoliation can adversely affect tree health.

**Monitoring:** Look for black, slug-like larvae feeding on the upper surface of leaves in June and again in August, and look for their damage on the leaves.

**Physical control:** Small populations of larvae can be removed by hand and destroyed.

**Chemical control:** Horticultural oils and insecticidal soaps are very effective against larvae.

**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, fluvinate, imidacloprid, lambda-cyhalothrin, malathion, permethrin

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Scorched leaves caused by pear sawfly larva defoliation damage. (189)

Photo: Jeff Hahn

Leaf damage caused by pear sawfly larvae. (188)

Photo: Whitney Cranshaw

Leaf damage caused by young, pear sawfly larvae. (W34)

Photo: Whitney Cranshaw
Pear sawfly (continued)

Skeletonizing and egg scar damage caused by pear sawfly. (W32)
Photo: Whitney Cranshaw

Close-up of pear sawfly slug. (190)
Photo: Jeff Hanhn

Pear sawfly adult. (W33)
Photo: Whitney Cranshaw

Pear sawfly larva on cotoneaster; note slimy looking larva. (190)
Photo: Cliff Sadof