



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, fluvalinate, imidacloprid, lambda-cyhalothrin, malathion, permethrin



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