



Pine bark adelgid

Pineus strobi

Order Hemiptera, Family Adelgidae;
pine and spruce adelgids
Native pest

Host plants: White pine is preferred, but Austrian and Scotch pine are also susceptible.

Description: Adult adelgids are approximately 3 mm long, oval, black, usually wingless, and covered with fluffy white wax.

Life history: Overwintered immature females mature in late April and deposit eggs that produce nymphs which become winged or wingless. Wingless forms remain and reproduce on the pine host. There are several generations a year.

Overwintering: Immature females on bark.

Damage symptoms: The woolly white wax produced by this adelgid can turn large areas of trees white.

Monitoring: Look for the fluffy wax covering these insects on trunks and branches in early spring. Check under the wax, both to monitor the pest stage present and also to determine the presence of natural enemies.

Chemical control: This adelgid does such little damage to healthy trees that control is not usually warranted. Old white pine are susceptible to damage. High infestations can predispose trees to colonization by bark beetles. Conserve the many natural enemies of this pest by using insecticidal soap or horticultural oil, as well as removing these adelgids with a high pressure jet of water. Soil applied systemic insecticides, like imidacloprid are also effective.

Biological control: Several kinds of beneficials attack the nymphs, such as lacewings, syrphid fly larvae, and lady beetles.

Plant mortality risk: Moderate

Cultural control: This pest is rarely damaging on small, healthy pines that are grown on sunny sites with moderate fertility and water.

Biorational pesticides: insecticidal soap, horticultural oil

Conventional pesticides: carbaryl, chlorpyrifos (nursery only), deltamethrin, imidacloprid



Woolly white wax on white pine caused by pine bark adelgid. Adelgids can be found on shoots as well as the main stem. (191)
Photo: Steve Katovich, USDA Forest Service