Uglynest caterpillar

Archips cerasivorana
Order Lepidoptera, Family Tortricidae; tortricids
Native pest

Host plants: Chokeberry and black cherry are preferred, but a variety of other hardwoods are also susceptible.

Description: Moths are dull orange with yellow hind wings and a wingspan of approximately 18–25 mm. Mature larvae are about 20 mm long and greenish yellow with black heads. Larvae pupate in the nest.

Life history: Overwintered eggs begin to hatch in May. Larvae live together in dense nests of webbing, leaves and twigs, and may be present until September. Adults emerge from July until September. There is one generation a year.

Overwintering: Eggs in masses on trunks or stems.

Damage symptoms: The uglynest caterpillar rarely does any permanent damage, but its nests severely affect the appearance of ornamental plants.

Monitoring: Look for the development of untidy nests of webbing, leaves and twigs.

Physical control: Prune and destroy webbed nests.

Chemical control: *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* can be sprayed to control young larvae. Larger populations of older larvae can be controlled with a residual insecticide, but damage is rarely sufficient to warrant treatment that might endanger natural enemies.

Biological control:

Plant mortality risk: Low

Biorational pesticides: *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*, diflubenzuron, insecticidal soap, pyrethrins, spinosad, tenbufenozide

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

Defoliation damage and leaves covered with silk caused by uglynest caterpillar. (W54)
Photo: Whitney Cranshaw

Uglynest caterpillar larvae inside a rolled leaf. (256)
Photo: Jeff Hahn

Uglynest caterpillar larva. (255)
Photo: Jeff Hahn