

Conifer Sawflies

An Insect That Feeds On Needles Of Conifers

Sawflies are non-stinging wasps, and their larvae look like caterpillars (see photos). Most sawflies that feed on pine and spruce trees feed in a colony, making them easy to identify. They can remove the needles from entire branches in just a few days, so prompt diagnosis is advised. Fortunately they are easy to manage.

Infested Trees Require Treatment For Control

Many types of conifers are susceptible to sawflies and require a topical or systemic treatment for control. Once damage is obvious, it is usually too late to treat. However, control measures can be timed to coincide with early larval feeding before damage becomes apparent.

What To Look For

- Needle discoloration and loss.
- Tips of branches are stripped.
- Feeding on old and new needles.

Life Cycle

- The sawfly eggs remain through winter in a cocoon.
- Eggs hatch in April through May.
- Larvae feed until mid-June.

Types of Sawflies

- European Spruce Sawfly
- Redheaded Pine Sawfly
- White Pine Sawfly
- Yellowheaded Spruce Sawfly

Treatment and Prevention

- Larvae can be dislodged with a strong stream of water.
- Enhance the tree's growing environment with the root care service.
- Treatment timelines are dependent upon your tree, landscape, insect infestation level, time of season, and available treatment options.



Elm Diseased with Dutch elm disease



Elm Bark Beetle



Macro-Infusion Injection