

European Pine Sawfly

Young European pine sawflies should begin showing up in the next week or so feeding on Scots, red, jack, and mugo pines. Eggs have already been laid by the adult female sawfly. Additional pines that may be attacked, if planted among the above species, include eastern white and Austrian pines. The best indicator plants for this spring (**Coincide**) for timing of sawfly egg hatch would be when redbud, *Cercis canadensis* and *Prunus X cistena* are in full bloom and when Norway maples are in late bloom and leafing out. Currently, Norway maples are just beginning to break bud throughout the northeastern Illinois area.

Young sawfly larvae will have a black head and gray-green body with several light and dark-green stripes that tend to break up into spots. The larvae feed gregarious (in groups) initially consuming the margins of the needle. As they grow, they eventually eat the entire needle leaving only the fascicle. There is one generation per year. Heavy defoliation of the plant may result if the larvae are not controlled, but since this sawfly feeds only on last year's needles, trees seldom die. In any case, extensive defoliation of most evergreens or conifers may cause serious damage or death of the plant.

The European pine sawfly is easily controlled by applying a foliar spray of Sevin (carbaryl), Dursban (chlorpyrifos) or diazinon when the larvae are first noticed. Older larvae are much harder to kill and can do considerable feeding damage if not controlled. One application should provide effective control.

REMEMBER: Dipel (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) IS NOT EFFECTIVE AGAINST SAWFLY LARVAE!

Credit: CES Newsletter

Don't Let Turf Equipment Damage Trees

by Larry Hall

Hendricksen, the Care of Trees

Lawn mowers, string trimmers and the whole arsenal of today's turf-care equipment might be indispensable to maintaining the ideal lawn, but they can also wreak havoc on trees.

Trunk wounds can be very serious, in some cases eventually killing a tree. Sometimes one or more branches begin to die shortly after the damage has occurred. Other times, years might go by before the tree shows any sign of trouble.

Even a slight nudge can injure a tree, with a tree possibly becoming completely girdled by this type of damage.

Thin-barked trees, such as lindens, birches, maples and magnolias, are more susceptible to trunk damage than those with more rugged bark, such as oaks, elms and ashes. All young trees, regardless of species, are at risk.

The best way to prevent trunk damage is to place a layer of mulch around the bases of trees. Ideally, mulch should form a circle around the base of the tree that extends out to the dripline. But since this might not always be possible, a tree-healthy compromise is to mulch from the base of the tree to at least a few feet from the base.

If a ring of mulch is not an option, maintenance workers should be sure to use landscaping equipment around their trees with great care.

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