

PEAR SAWFLY Hymenoptera: Tenthredinidae *Caliroa cerasi*

DESCRIPTION

Adults are wasp-like, shiny black sawflies that are about 12 mm long. **Larvae** resemble tiny slugs, and are coated with a slimy covering, which is olive-green to dark green in color. The anterior end of the larva is wider than the rest of the body. A mature larva is about 12 mm long.

ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE

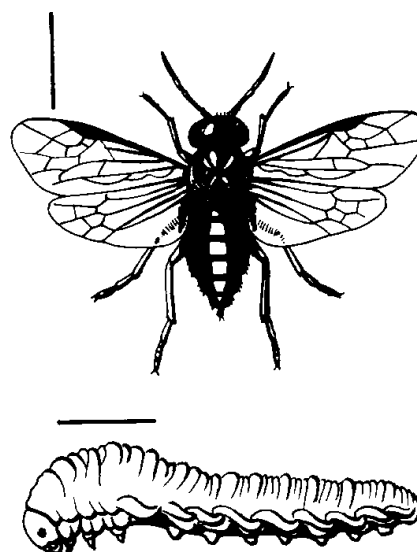
Larvae feed on the upper surfaces of the foliage and skeletonize the leaves. When numerous, they cause the entire tree to appear brown and cause a serious reduction in the leaf surface area which interferes with growth of the fruit and the development of fruit buds. This pest is generally of minor importance in properly managed commercial orchards.

DISTRIBUTION AND LIFE HISTORY

This pest is distributed throughout the United States. The pear sawfly (pearslug) overwinters as a pupa in a cocoon formed in an earthen cell 5 to 7 cm deep in the soil. Adults emerge in late spring, usually in April and May, and females insert eggs in slits in the upper surface of leaves. Eggs hatch in a few days into a soft-bodied larva that begins feeding on the upper leaf surface. Larvae feed on the foliage for two to three weeks before dropping to the ground to pupate. Adults emerge during late July and August and lay eggs for the second generation, which usually causes the greatest damage, especially on young trees that may be completely defoliated. When larvae of the second generation are mature, they drop to the ground and form the overwintering pupal stage.

MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

In commercial orchards there is little need to apply special control measures for this insect since the standard control programs for other insect pests also will control this pest. This insect is usually a serious pest only in poorly managed orchards or on young trees. See the Pacific Northwest Insect Control Handbook for a list of registered insecticides that can be used if it is necessary to control this pest.



(after KS Ent. Serv. Bull. 94)

