

Bugs & Blights

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Mountain ash sawfly is a relatively new pest in South Everett, Snohomish County. Like many sawflies, it is host specific, thus limited to *Sorbus* spp. Because mountain ash has a compound leaf, the remnants of petioles and midribs are particularly obvious. By July, early damage is done, but soon a second generation of adults, then larvae, may appear. Early detection is likely to reduce damage and provide the most effective controls. Sawflies may stay in the soil and emerge 2, 3, or up to 5 years later. It appears that there may be 3 generations in our area: 1. spring-early summer, 2. mid-summer and 3. in September. Damage is limited to ugly and is reported to not seriously harm the health of the tree. *Note that pesticides recommended in publications from other states or countries may not be valid in Washington or other states so always check with WSDA or PNW Insect Management Handbook.*



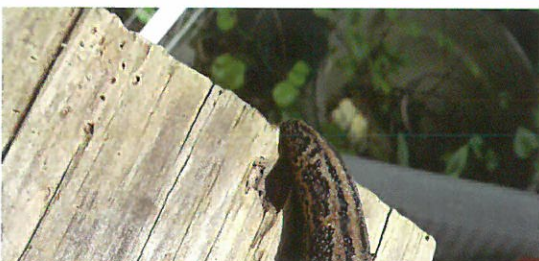
White rust was first reported from Oregon in 2000. By 2003, it had been found in Seattle and Tacoma all on *Lunaria* (also known as honesty or moneyplant). In the home garden, rogue out infested plants as it can live in the soil for many years. The rust is white and will be found on the underside of leaves and even on the coin-like seed pods. Rogue out infested plants quickly and don't compost them. A related disease of spinach reports that spores can remain the soil for years.



Narcissus bulb fly is large and looks a bit like bumblebee. This is the fly that lays the egg that turns into the maggot that eats the bulbs of daffodils and other plants. You can't see that they only have two wings, but you can see the large eyes (rhyming with flies) and short antennae. Bumblebees have little bee-dy eyes and longer antennae. You'll know them by their behavior: these flies are bullies, bashing into other bees that are visiting flowers. A kid and a net and a quarter per fly should solve the problem of bored kids and narcissus bulb fly.



Lacewing larvae are good news in the garden. As predators they search out aphids and nearly any prey they can get their mandibles into. They inject a toxin to subdue the prey. Some people react to the bite of these insects.



Slugs remain active in the heat of summer in some places. *Limax maximus* or the great gray garden slug is out patrolling for dinner even on warm dry nights. This slug seems to tolerate the dryness and often rasps away at dried up plant material, as well as the green stuff. This slug will attack other slugs and also has a liking for dry pet food which you can use to good advantage for monitoring. They have keen senses and will find it even on the front porch.