



Bugs and Blights

June 13, 2013

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Stridulations! Welcome to the tiny, bizarre and fascinating world of bugs and blights. This newsletter focuses on diagnosis of plant problems, recognizes that insects and disease do sometimes become intolerable, and also honors the myriad of garden organisms that make gardens and landscapes, balanced and healthy.

Mountain ash sawfly

Pristiphora geniculata

Hymenoptera: Tenthredinidae

The first report of the season in Seattle June 13.
Early action (crushing pruning, "soft" pesticides)
will reduce damage from later generations.

Introduced into the US in 1920, the mountain ash sawfly was only known from New England to Michigan and down to Virginia. The first western North American record was reported from Monroe and Lynnwood, Snohomish County in 2009.

The only known hosts are the European and American mountain ash (*Sorbus aucuparia* and *S. americana*).

For information on pests of landscape plants (including description, damage, biology and life cycle, scouting, biological control, cultural management and chemical control) see the 2013 PNW Insect management Handbook (online);
<http://pnwhandbooks.org/insect/sites/default/files/pdfsection/hort.pdf>



After hatching, the tiny larvae line up along the leaf edge and swing their hind end outward. If disturbed all the tail-ends will twitch in unison presumably to startle natural enemies.



Larvae eat voraciously, grow, then drop to the ground to pupate (transform to adults).



By the time the damage is noticed only the “skeletons” of former leaves will be left; the sawfly larvae will have consumed all but the petiole, rachise and midrib of the leaflets.



In midsummer adults will again emerge and mate and lay eggs. Adults are often described as small wasps, but to the most gardeners they will look like small flies swarming around branch tips.



Females insert eggs into the leaf at the underside edge of leaves in the lower canopy of the tree. As the defoliation progresses through the season, the next generation lays eggs in the remaining leaves higher in the tree. There are possibly three generations, thus early control

can reduce seasonal damage. Generally trees are not killed.

Management options

Squashing: The woman who found the sawflies said she simply squashed all she could reach. (She wears gloves and rubs her hands together to squash the small larvae.)

Burning on the tree: No no! Potential fire hazard to roofs, dry fields, and people. In burn barrel or fireplace: unnecessary air pollution

Pruning: Remove the branches with the aggregating larvae and crush them underfoot or place in soapy water.

Pesticides: refer to the 2013 PNW Insect management Handbook (on-line); page F124 Mountain ash.

<http://pnwhandbooks.org/insect/sites/default/files/pdfsection/hort.pdf>

Other info:

<http://www.entomology.umn.edu/cues/Web/169MountainashSawfly.pdf> or

<http://bugs.osu.edu/~bugdoc/Shetlar/factsheet/ornamental/FSmontashsawfly.htm>

[Pesticides listed in out of state references may not be registered in Washington. Refer to 2013 Insect Management Handbook website above]

Black vine weevil,

Otiorhynchus sulcatus

Coleoptera: Curculionidae

June 13, 2013. First report of soft BVW adults indicating that the adults are beginning to emerge in Redmond, WA.

Some overwintering BVW adults have been reported earlier in spring. However, woods weevil have been active through the winter months and clay-colored weevil emerges in April.