

WESTERN PINE SHOOT BORER—*Eucosma sonomana*

HOSTS: Lodgepole and ponderosa pines, and Engelmann spruce

IDENTIFICATION, LIFE CYCLE, AND DAMAGE: Larvae are dirty white with dark heads and are 12 to 15 mm long. Moths have coppery-red forewings marked with two gray transverse bands and have a wingspan of 16 to 22 mm.

Pupae overwinter in the soil, and moths fly in early spring (April and May in Colorado). Adults lay eggs on the elongating shoots in the spring. During June, July, and August, larvae bore downward in the pith of elongating shoots. By August a few of the severely damaged shoots may die and turn red.

Infested trees are stunted and frequently have excessive branching. Unlike tips damaged by pine tip moths, western pine shoot borer infested tips do not crumble when squeezed.



Western pine shoot borer larva

CONTROL: No insecticide is currently registered for this insect. If the infestation is small, remove and destroy damaged shoots as they appear. Contact your local extension agent for more information.