

PINE NEEDLE SHEATHMINER—*Zelleria haimbachi*

HOSTS: Ponderosa pine, and jack pine and other two needle pines

IDENTIFICATION, LIFE CYCLE, AND DAMAGE: Mature larvae are tan with two bright orange stripes and about 14 mm long. Moths are silvery-white with light yellow wings and have a wingspread of 12 mm.

Moths emerge during July and lay their eggs singly on needles. During late summer the newly hatched bright orange larvae mine current-year needles. Larvae overwinter in the needles and the following spring migrate to young needle clusters, where they feed within the needle fascicle sheaths and later form silk tubes around the bases of needles. In late June, larvae pupate within silk tubes.

Sheathminers sever needles within the needle fascicle sheath, causing them to droop and/or drop prematurely. Damage is unsightly but does not seriously affect tree vigor.

CONTROL: No insecticide is currently registered for this insect. Contact your local extension service for more information.



Pine needle sheathminer larva



Pine needle sheathminer damage