

# JACK PINE BUDWORM—*Choristoneura pinus*

**HOST:** Jack pine

**IDENTIFICATION, LIFE CYCLE, AND DAMAGE:** Young larvae are pale orange or yellowish-brown and have yellowish-brown heads. Mature larvae are about 19 mm long and are dark brown with lateral brownish-yellow areas. Moths have reddish-brown wings with white markings and a wingspan of 19 mm. When at rest, moths hold their wings tent-like over their body.

Adults emerge in July and August, and females lay rows of overlapping eggs on needles. About 10 days later larvae emerge and immediately spin silken cocoons under bark scales on trees. Young larvae overwinter in cocoons and the following spring feed on needles. Larvae pupate during June and July.

Unnoticed brown webs are formed when chewed-off needles are caught in silk webbing produced by the budworms. Foliage turns brown in July when larvae are reaching maturity. Feeding reduces tree growth and vigor and may kill trees that have been severely damaged for several years.

**CONTROL:** Spray foliage with *Bacillus thuringiensis* (B.t.) or carbaryl in late May or early June when larvae are about 13 mm in length.



Jack pine budworm larva on shoot



Jack pine budworm damage