

PEAR SAWFLY (PEAR SLUG)—*Caliroa cerasi*

HOSTS: Plum, cherry, cotoneaster, pear, and mountain ash

IDENTIFICATION, LIFE CYCLE AND DAMAGE: Larvae are slug-like, dark olive-green, and covered with slime. Adult sawflies are black and yellow, stout-bodied, and approximately 5 to 8 mm long.

Larvae overwinter in protected places in soil and pupate in the spring. Adult sawflies emerge in June and July, and females lay eggs in slits cut in leaves. Eggs hatch after a few days and larvae feed on foliage for 2 to 3 weeks. A second generation is common in late summer in the Central Great Plains with adults emerging during late July and August and peak larval feeding occurring in September.

Larvae feed almost entirely on the upper leaf surface, consuming tissue and avoiding main veins.

Heavily infested leaves appear scorched and may drop prematurely. Severe defoliation reduces plant vigor and is unsightly.

CONTROL: Spray leaves with carbaryl, malathion, diazinon, or other commonly available insecticides when damage first appears.



Pear sawfly larva and damage