



PEST FACT SHEET

AGRICULTURE & COMMUNITY SERVICES

SPRUCE BUDWORM (*Choristoneura fumiferana*)

What is a spruce budworm (*Choristoneura fumiferana*)?

A native defoliating moth that feeds on over-mature spruce and fir tree species.

Watch for yellowish-brown to purplish red larvae (caterpillars) with faint white spots along body.

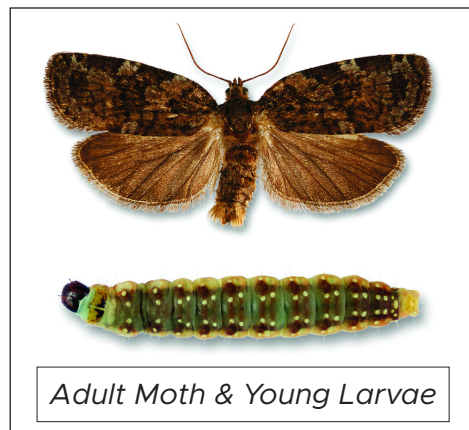
Primary hosts include White Spruce and Balsam Fir.

Outbreaks occur every 20 to 40 years and can last for several years.

They appear between May to late June.



Spruce Budworm



Adult Moth & Young Larvae

DAMAGE

Noticeable defoliation at the new crowns and branch ends (new growth areas) of trees.

Browning/reddening of needles by late summer.

Spruce budworms are capable of killing trees after four or five consecutive years of severe infestation.

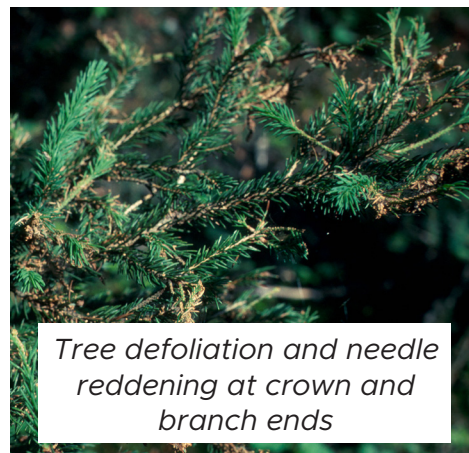
CONTROL

Removal of small colonies by hand or with pressurized water.

Biological insecticides such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* var *kurstaki* (Btk) applied in mid-May to mid-June.

Insecticidal soap with a pressure gun.

Chemical insecticides (require pesticide licence and are discouraged due to the environmental risk).



Tree defoliation and needle reddening at crown and branch ends

Photos from Natural Resources Canada