

Problem: Scarlet Oak Sawfly (*Caliroa quercuscoccineae*)



Photo Courtesy of Dillon Nature Center

Hosts: Scarlet, black, pin, and white oaks

Description: Scarlet Oak Sawfly slugs feed by removing the green layer of the leaf leaving behind a “window pane” effect. These insects are slug-like and have a shiny, yellowish-green coloration with a black head and black legs. Scarlet oak sawfly slugs are gregarious and feed in groups. There are two generations per year with the first causing damage in June and the second in August.

Recommendations: Natural controls such as microbial diseases and other natural enemies usually keep these insects in check, but there may be outbreaks at times. Numerous control measures are effective, if needed. For example, insecticidal soap, malathion, acephate (Acephate, Bonide Systemic Insect Control), bifenthrin (Hi-Yield Bug Blaster Bifenthrin) and permethrin (Hi-Yield 38 Plus Turf, Termite & Ornamental Insect Spray; Hi-Yield Garden & Farm Insect Control) are all effective controls. *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Dipel, Thuricide) is not because it is only effective on the larvae of lepidopterous insects (moths and butterflies), not sawflies.

References:

1. [Oak Sawfly](#), University of Illinois, Home, Yard & Garden Pest, Issue 15, September 23, 2014
2. [Oak Sawfly](#), Iowa State University, Iowa Insect Information Notes,

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