Problem: Scarlet Oak Sawfly (Caliroa quercusoccineae)

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, bifenthrin (Hi-Yield Bug Blaster Bifenthrin, Ortho Insect Killer for Lawn & Landscape) and permethrin (Hi-Yield 38 Plus Turf, Termite & Ornamental Insect Spray; Hi-Yield Garden & Farm Insect Control) are all effective controls. Bacillus thuringienses (Dipel, Thuricide) is not because it is only effective on the larvae of lepidopterous insects (moths and butterflies), not sawflies.

References:
2. Oak Sawfly, Iowa State University, Iowa Insect Information Notes,

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