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Redheaded pine sawfly

The redheaded pine sawfly, *Neodiprion lecontei* (Fitch), is probably the most serious pest of red pine plantations in southern and central Ontario and south-central Quebec. A complete defoliation kills small trees while less extensive feeding results in poor diameter growth and often the death of defoliated branches. Although red pine is the preferred host tree, jack pine, Scots pine and other pines are attacked as well.



Defoliated tree top



Colony of larvae

Adults emerge and eggs are laid in the needles in June and July. The larvae may be found from July to early October feeding in colonies and show a preference for needles of the previous year's growth, although in heavy infestations all needles are consumed. The full-grown larva is about 25 mm long. The winter is passed in a cocoon in the litter.

Extensive mortality of pine sometimes occurs in young plantations in spite of a host of natural controls such as parasitic insects; insect, bird and rodent predators; and virulent disease organisms, especially a polyhedral virus that often causes the collapse of heavy infestations.

If necessary a contact or stomach poison may be applied when the larvae are first seen, to prevent serious loss of foliage. For a currently acceptable insecticide consult an appropriate government official.

A.H. Rose and O.H. Lindquist

Copies of this leaflet can be obtained from the Great Lakes Forest Research Centre's Information Office.

Information on many other pine insects is given in "Insects of Eastern Pines", Publication No. 1313, available from authorized bookstore agents or from the Canadian Government Publishing Centre, Ottawa, Canada, K1A 0S9.

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