



Douglas-fir Tussock Moth (*Orgyia pseudotsugata*)



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Douglas-fir Tussock Moth

Douglas-fir Tussock Moth is a destructive pest that has recently begun to increase along the Front Range

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| <p>General</p> | <p>Family: Erebidae Native Natural predators (wasps and viruses) usually control the population Outbreaks occur every 7-10 years, may last 1-2 years and then the population returns to non-damaging levels Caterpillar hairs can be irritating to the skin and may cause a localized rash. Limit contact with caterpillars and cover exposed areas when working around infested trees</p> |
| <p>Damage</p> | <p>Eggs hatch in May Young caterpillars feed on new growth, usually near the tops of trees Caterpillars move lower in the trees as they mature and continue to feed on foliage Trees may survive if the damage is not heavy Trees may be weakened and be vulnerable to attack by other insects Entire stands of Douglas-fir may be killed when a large hatch occurs</p> |
| <p>Habitat</p> | <p>Douglas-fir Blue spruce</p> |

| INSECT INFORMATION | |
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| Identification | <p>Adult male: ordinary looking gray-brown to black moth with feathery antennae, wingspan is 1 inch to 1 ½ inches wide</p> <p>Adult female: gray, smaller than the male, ¾ inch long, lacks functional wings, small thread-like antennae, has a large abdomen</p> <p>Mature Larvae/caterpillar: up to 1 ½ inches long with showy coloring, directly behind the head are dark tufts, short hairs that come out of red centers cover the rest of the body</p> |
| Lifecycle | <p>One generation per year.</p> <p>Eggs - hatch in late May, coinciding with new leaf growth on the tree.</p> <p>Larvae - May through July</p> <p>Pupa - mid-July through August</p> <p>Adult - late summer. Lay eggs through September</p> |

| CONTROL | | | |
|----------|-----------------|--|---|
| CHEMICAL | Site | Pesticide | Timing |
| | Landscape trees | Permethrin (Astro) Cyfluthrin (Tempo) Bifenthrin (Talstar, Onyx) Lambda-cyhalothrin (Scimitar) Carbaryl (Sevin, Sevimol), Teburenzide (Confirm, Mimic) Spinosad (Conserve) | May - shortly after eggs have hatched Treat starting at the top of the tree. |
| | Forest | Bacillus thuringiensis (Foray, Dipel) Diflubenzuron (Dimilin) Tebufenozide (Confirm, Mimic). | May - shortly after eggs have hatched |

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| Other Info | <p>http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/insect/05542.pdf</p> <p>http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/fidls/tussock/fidl-tuss.htm</p> <p>http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5187412.pdf</p> <p>http://forestpests.org/vd/198.html</p> |
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Use all chemicals according to the manufacturer's label. No specific recommendation or endorsement is made or implied by listing the above methods or products.