

# ***Mysterious worm eating your pine trees?***

It might be the **European Pine Sawfly** (*Neodiprion sertifer*)



**Background/life cycle:** Eggs are laid in the previous season's needles and hatch beginning in April. The larvae may feed through mid-June. Adults emerge in September and remain through late fall when they lay their eggs.

**Effects:** Since pine sawfly larvae only eat needles from the previous season, they will rarely kill a healthy tree. However, if they eat the needles year after year, it may slow the tree's growth.

**Management Options:**

1. If the infestation is relatively contained (within a few branches of a couple trees) it might be easiest to remove the larvae by hand.
2. For larger infestations, insecticides may be used to control populations.

**\*\*\*Read insecticide label BEFORE purchasing and again before applying. Make sure the insecticide you are using is labeled for the plant you are using it on and that it won't harm other animals (i.e. songbirds that feed on the larvae or pets that may come in contact with the pesticide).**

For a list of insecticides and more information on the European Pine Sawfly larvae visit the University of Minnesota's Extension Service at:

[www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/DG6703.html](http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/DG6703.html)

**Or**

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