

Spruce Budworm

Choristoneura fumiferana (Clemens)

Spruce
budworm
larva



A native of Nova Scotia, the spruce budworm has historically been the most destructive softwood forest pest across North America:

- Outbreaks tend to recur every 30-40 years and may persist for 10 years or more
- The last outbreak in Nova Scotia occurred in the 1970-80s and impacted over 1 million hectares
- Caterpillar is the only life stage that feeds on and damages the foliage
- Causes extreme damage to balsam fir and all three native spruce species
- Feeding causes general yellowing, thinning of foliage and crown dieback
- Severe defoliation may cause tree mortality within 3-5 years
- Naturally spreads slowly; populations can be influenced by mass flight events



Spruce budworm damage

Spruce Budworm

Spruce budworm adults



DESCRIPTION

Larva

- 20 - 30 mm; dark greenish-brown body with 3 rows of paired white dots on back

Adult moth

- 20 mm; grey-brown with silvery white patches

WHAT TO LOOK FOR



Spruce budworm damage

- Partly chewed needles and dead buds seen on tree tops at branch tips

CONTROL

- Naturally occurring parasites, predators and diseases
- Apply registered insecticides according to label instructions, after bud break

LIFE CYCLE



Please visit novascotia.ca/natr/forestprotection to download a copy of the "Field Guide to Pests of the Acadian Forest".