

**Host:** Douglas-fir, grand fir, subalpine fir and spruce

**Life Cycle:** Eggs hatch into caterpillars and begin feeding on needles in the spring just as buds burst. They pupate in late summer and emerge as adults August through September. Female moths do not fly; they emerge from their pupal case, mate, lay eggs, and die. Eggs overwinter in a mass encased with hairs from the mother's body.

**Identification:**

- Hairy caterpillars with distinct tussocks along back
- Gray, hairy pupal cases persistent on main stem of trees and at branch nodes Pupal cases may also be attached to buildings, furniture and other outdoor structures
- Crowns appearing thinned, scorched or stripped of foliage

**Damage:** Caterpillars feed on current and previous years' growth, often defoliating the entire tree. Understory trees can be killed within one year of severe defoliation.

**Treatment**

- VIRUSES naturally develop in the population and control outbreaks within 3 years of onset.
- THIN STANDS to reduce competition and promote individual tree vigor. Defoliation may still occur, but trees will be more likely to rebound after outbreak subsides.
- PROMOTE non-host species such as pines (lodgepole and ponderosa) and western larch.
- INSECTICIDES may be useful for short-term control of high value trees. Follow the pesticide label and use proper personal protective equipment. A licensed pesticide applicator is encouraged.

**Additional Resources:**

- [FIDL](#)
- [Management Guide](#)