

Apple Sawfly



The adult apple sawfly is a small insect around 4-5mm in length with a brownish black head and thorax and a brown abdomen. It attacks earlier in the season than the codling moth and fruit losses can be severe. Apple varieties 'James Grieve', Charles Ross, Ellison's Orange and 'Worcester Pearmain' are particularly susceptible. Other top fruits can be attacked by related species of sawfly but generally to a lesser extent.

DAMAGE:

Sawfly can be seen at blossom time and lay their eggs at the base of open flowers. Once hatched the caterpillar like larvae burrow into the young fruitlets and tunnel just beneath the skin before making their way to the core. Once fully fed the larvae leave the

fruit, creating an exit hole filled with a mass of wet, black sticky frass and disappear in to the soil to pupate. Affected fruits will drop to the ground in June and July. Further migration to other fruitlets may occur, either before or after infested ones have dropped to the ground.

If the larvae dies before it can bore into the core, the fruit will reach maturity. Early feeding beneath the skin will however produce a broad, corky, ribbon like scar on the fruit surface often running from the eye end to the middle of the fruit.

CONTROL:

Non Chemical Control

If signs of maggot damage are seen, rake up any fallen fruits and pick off any that show signs of damage, burning all infested fruitlets before the larvae escape in to the soil. In winter rake around apple trees to expose the pupating sawflies leaving them open to the elements to be killed by frost.

Chemical Control

As a precautionary measure, apple trees should be sprayed one week after 80% petal fall with Deltamethrin (Bayer '**Provado Ultimate Fruit & Vegetable Bug Killer**' or Bayer 'Sprayday Greenfly Killer') or lambda-cyhalothrin (Westland 'Resolva Bug Killer') to control the newly hatched larvae. These sprays are all synthetic insecticides.

USE CHEMICALS SAFELY: ALWAYS READ THE LABEL

When using chemicals it is most important to follow the manufacturer's instructions precisely. Only use on the fruits that are listed on the manufacturer's label. An accurate weighing machine and measuring cylinder should be obtained. Chemicals can be wasted by making concentrations unnecessarily strong or by making them too weak and ineffective. Furthermore, if chemicals are too strong they may cause damage to the foliage.