

WESTERN SPRUCE BUDWORM
Choristoneura occidentalis

- Natural range -** Western United States and Canada
- Species affected -** Douglas-fir, true firs, spruces
- Type of damage -** Larvae bore in buds in early spring and later feed on new shoots.
- Symptoms -** Damaged trees have a brownish cast, buds are destroyed and foliage on new shoots is damaged.
- Importance -** Western spruce budworm is a major pest of forests in western North America. During outbreak cycles, millions of acres of forest can be damaged. Successive defoliations will cause growth loss, reduced cone crops, top kill, and tree death. Severely weakened trees are often attacked by bark beetles.
- Remarks -** Western spruce budworm is a pest of forested areas and is not likely to be encountered in an urban situation. This insect could be a problem in urban-wildland interface areas.



Left – Young western spruce budworm larva in Douglas-fir shoot.
Right – Mature western spruce budworm larva

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Left – Defoliation caused by western spruce budworm.
Right – Adult western spruce budworm moth.