

SPRUCE NEEDLEMINDER—*Endothenia albolineana*

HOST: Spruce

IDENTIFICATION, LIFE CYCLE, AND DAMAGE: Mature larvae are light green with brown heads and are about 8 mm long. Moths have dark brown wings with three wavy, transverse, grayish-white bands and a 12 mm wingspan.

Adults emerge in late May or June (in Nebraska) and lay 2 to 12 eggs in a row on the underside of needles. Groups of young larvae mine into the bases of older needles and construct funnel-shaped “nests” composed of dried needles, excrement, and silk around twigs on the lower branches of large trees. Older larvae feed singly on the needles and overwinter in the nest. In spring larvae feed and pupate within the nests .

Spruce needleminers will not kill trees but their damage is unsightly. Nests tend to be concentrated on lower branches of large trees.

CONTROL: No insecticide is currently registered for this insect. In spring before buds begin to swell or in fall hand remove nests or dislodge nests from the branches with a strong stream of water. Burn or destroy all dislodged nests. Contact your local extension service for more information.



Spruce needleminer nest



Spruce needleminer larva and damage