

SPITTLEBUGS—*Aphrophora* spp., and *Clastoptera* spp.

HOSTS: Pines, other conifer trees, hardwood trees, and herbaceous plants

IDENTIFICATION, LIFE CYCLE

AND DAMAGE: Nymphs cover themselves with a frothy mass of spittle and air bubbles. Adults resemble leafhoppers, are about 10 mm long, brown, and are not surrounded by spittle.

Spittlebugs overwinter as eggs on the branch tips. Eggs usually hatch in May and nymphs begin feeding on twigs and foliage. Nymphs change location several times as they develop, forming new spittle masses at each stop. Adults are present during July and August.

Both adults and nymphs feed on sap by inserting their mouthparts into foliage, twigs, or small branches.

Most tree-feeding spittlebugs also feed on herbaceous plants in the immediate area. Damage caused by spittlebugs is unsightly. Occasionally, seedlings or trees in ornamental and Christmas tree plantings are severely infested and killed.

CONTROL: Spray severely infested branches and stems with carbaryl, diazinon, or malathion when nymphs first appear and spittle masses are evident. Wash nymphs and spittle off infested trees with a strong stream of water if trees are small or infestations are light.



Spittle mass of spittlebug nymph



Spittlebug adult