

SAWFLIES—*Nematus spp.*

HOSTS: Willow and cottonwood and other poplars

IDENTIFICATION, LIFE CYCLE, AND DAMAGE: Color of the larvae depends upon the species present, and may vary from black or greenish-black to light green with rows of yellow or dark colored spots along the sides of the body. Adults resemble small bees. Larvae feed gregariously on leaves during the summer and then drop to the ground to overwinter and/or pupate. There may be more than one generation per year. When disturbed, larvae curl up in a characteristic “s”- or “c”-shape.

Adult sawflies emerge during spring and lay eggs in pockets cut in leaf tissue. Larvae feed gregariously on leaves during the summer and then drop to the ground to overwinter and/or pupate. There may be more than one generation per year. When disturbed, larvae curl up in a characteristic “s”- or “c”-shape.

Large infestations can cause substantial defoliation.

CONTROL: Spray larvae and leaves with malathion or carbaryl.



Nematus sp. sawfly larvae on poplar