

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Judy Gallagher, Flickr

Common Name: Western Conifer Seed Bug

Scientific Name: *Leptoglossus occidentalis*

Order and Family: Hemiptera: Coreidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	2 mm	
Larva/Nymph		<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Orange and brown for the early nymphs.● Reddish - brown for the older nymphs.
Adult	9 - 18 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Reddish - brown color.● Four segmented antennae.● Abdomen yellow to orange with five transverse black patches.● Tibia dilated.

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Piercing-sucking

Host/s: Western conifer seed bugs feed on approximately 40 species, including white pine, red pine, Scots pine, Austrian pine, mugo pine, lodgepole pine, white spruce, Douglas-fir, and pistachio.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): This insect damages seeds by piercing the cones with their piercing-sucking mouthparts, and sucks out the endosperm. This often results in the abortion or infertility of the seeds' endosperm, with up to 50 percent seed loss. Empty seeds appear indistinguishable from healthy seeds at time of harvest.

References:

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