

# Pest Profile



Photo credit: Bob Barber, bugguide.net

**Common Name:** Willow Sawfly

**Scientific Name:** *Nematus ventralis*

**Order, Family:** Hymenoptera, Tenthredinidae

**Size and Appearance:**

	Adult	Egg	Larva/Nymph	Pupae (if applicable)
<b>Length (mm)</b>	6-9 mm long		Approximately 16 mm long	
<b>Appearance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- They look similar to wasps and are related to bees and wasps, but lack the obvious constricted waist of common wasps.</li> <li>- Adult females have a protruding ovipositor with a jagged edge that is used to “saw” a slit to lay eggs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eggs are laid into pockets that are cut into the leaf tissue from the underside of the leaves.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The larvae have greenish-black body with large yellow spots along their sides and a black head.</li> <li>- Larvae are seen in groups, and feed in groups.</li> <li>- They can be distinguished from caterpillars by the number of prolegs (fleshy legs located behind the front three pairs of legs). <b>Sawfly larvae have six or more pairs of prolegs, caterpillars have five or fewer.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupation occurs inside topsoil beneath the host.</li> </ul>

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Chewing, larvae.

**Host plant/s:** Mainly willow species like willows (*Salix* spp.) and poplars (*Populus* spp.), but display a preference for *S. eriocephala*, *S. miyabeana*, *S. sachalinensis*, *S. purpurea* and their hybrids.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Larvae feed in groups, initially eating small holes in leaves and eventually consuming entire leaves. Occasionally, heavy defoliation takes place, especially on young or small tree. Adults can cause damage when laying eggs inside the leaf but this is often minimal compared to the amount of damage caused by the larvae.

**References:**

Warwzynski, R. (2009). *Sawflies of trees and shrubs*. Retrieved from <http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/insects/find/sawflies/>

BugGuide. (2019, June 8). *Species Nematus ventralis - Willow Sawfly*. Retrieved from <http://bugguide.net/node/view/303543>

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. (2015, Aug. 13). *Willow Sawfly*. Retrieved from <http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/science-and-innovation/agricultural-practices/agroforestry/diseases-and-pests/willow-sawfly/?id=1198260876537>

Cameron, K., Leob, G., Abrahamson, L., White, C., Smat, L. (2010, May). *Willow sawfly, Nematus ventralis Say*. Cornell University. Retrieved from <https://blogs.cornell.edu/willow/files/2014/10/Willow-sawfly-Nematus-ventralis-fact-sheet-zugcm3.pdf>