

## Pest Profile



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**Common Name:** Spruce Beetle

**Scientific Name:** *Dendroctonus rufipennis*

**Order and Family:** Coleoptera; Curculionidae

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>	1-2 mm	- Laid on the sides of the galleries under tree bark - Pearly white in color
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	4-6 mm	- 'C'-shaped grub - Cream colored with an amber colored head - Stout and legless
<b>Adult</b>	Length: 3-6 mm Width: 3 mm	- Dark brown to black beetles - Reddish-brown or black wing covers
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		- Pupation occurs in a pupal chamber at the end of the larval gallery - Milky, white in color - Have a similar size and shape to adult

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Both larvae and adults have chewing mouthparts

**Host plant/s:** White, Lutz, Sitka, and Engelmann Spruce

**Description of Damage:** Adult females bore through the outer bark of host trees and create egg galleries in the underlying phloem tissue. After hatching, larvae will continue to bore in the phloem until pupation. When adults emerge, they move to the base of the tree and bore into the bark near the litter line to overwinter. In the spring, adults will emerge from their overwintering sites and attack new host material.

Evidence of a spruce beetle infestation is reddish-brown boring dust accumulating at entrance holes, in bark crevices, and on the ground around the trunk of infested trees. Masses of pitch may also accumulate around entrance holes. After being attacked, the needles of the live spruce will slowly fade to a pale

yellowish-green color before turning gray. Fading typically starts the second summer after the attack. Dead needles will be knocked from trees during heavy rains, leaving yellow-orange to reddish colored twigs exposed in the upper crown.

**References:**

CABI. (2017, October 11). *Dendroctonus rufipennis* (spruce beetle). Retrieved November 08, 2017, from <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/18357>

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