

Pest Profile



Photo Credit: [William M. Ciesla](#), Forest Health Management International, Bugwood.org

Common name: Douglas-fir tussock moth

Scientific name: *Orgyia pseudotsugata*

Order and Family: Lepidoptera: Lymantriidae

Size and appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		Spherical and white, deposited within in a mass of frothy substance and hairs from the female.
Larva/Nymph	4mm–7mm, can grow to 32mm	Bodies are covered with fine hairs that eventually turn into two tufts behind the head, a single posterior tuft, and four tussocks along the back. Body color light to dark brown. Hairs can cause an itchy rash in some people.
Adult	Males: 25mm–32mm wingspan, 30mm–40mm long	Gray-brown to black-brown.
Pupa (if applicable)		Cocoons are attached to twigs within the tree crown and consist of a mixture of larval hairs and silk webbing.

Type of feeder: Chewing

Hosts: Prefers Douglas-fir, but it also feeds on white fir and spruce.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): The Douglas-fir tussock moth larvae feed on the current year's foliage after they hatch in the spring, which shrivels and turns reddish brown in color. The older larvae and adults prefer current needles, but will consume both new and old foliage. Defoliation occurs usually at the top of the plant, which makes the host more susceptible to other types of pests and diseases.

References:

Cranshaw, W. (2004). *Garden insects of North America: The ultimate guide to backyard bugs*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Ciesla, W.M. (n.d.). *Lepidoptera Images at Insect Images*. Retrieved from:
<<http://www.insectimages.org/browse/taxthumb.cfm?order=131>>.

Wickman, B.E.; Mason, R.R; Trestle, G.C. (1981). *Douglas-fir tussock moth*. Forest Insect and Disease Leaflet 86. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. Retrieved from:
<<http://na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/fidls/tussock/fidl-tuss.htm>>.