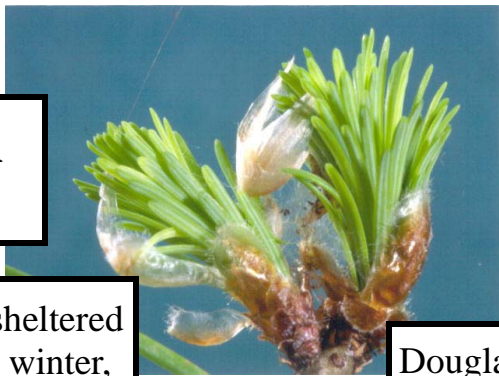


Understanding the Life Cycle of the Western Spruce Budworm

OCTOBER TO MAY

Larvae seek out sheltered sites to spend the winter, often under bark scales or in silken webs.



MAY

The small, young larvae disperse on the wind by fine silken threads. In this way, many larvae fall on understory trees, causing severe defoliation on smaller trees.

Douglas-fir buds start to flush in May and young larvae (caterpillars) begin feeding on the buds and new needles.



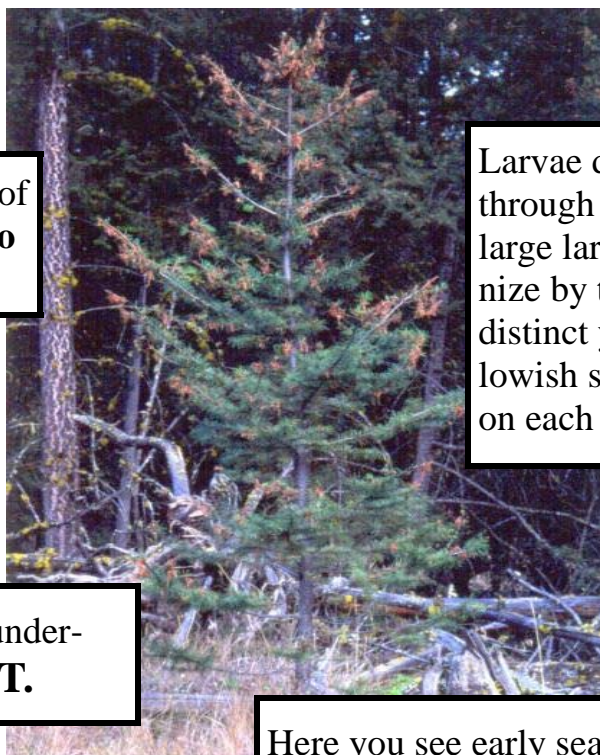
JUNE AND JULY

SEPTEMBER

Very tiny larvae hatch out of eggs in late summer, but **do not feed at this stage.**



Larvae develop from May through early July. Mature, large larvae are easy to recognize by the brown body and 4 distinct yellowish spots on each seg-



Egg masses are laid on the underside of needles in **AUGUST.**



Here you see early season defoliation. Larvae feed mainly on new foliage, spinning loose webs which are used as feeding shelters.



JULY AND EARLY AUGUST

Severe budworm defoliation is very visible in July and August. Western spruce budworms can completely defoliate small trees in one season.



Western spruce budworm metamorphose to pupae in early to mid-July. Two weeks later, moths emerge to lay eggs and begin the cycle once again. Moths are capable of dispersing over great distances, thereby expanding infestations.



**For more information on the western spruce budworm, please contact:
British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Southern Interior Forest Region
http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/rsi/ForestHealth/Western_Spruce_Budworm.htm**