

# Pear Slug/Pear Sawfly (*Caliroa cerasi*)

September, 2020

Pear sawfly prefers pear and cherry hosts but will also attack the leaves of plum, quince and occasionally apple. Larvae feed on the upper surface of pear and cherry leaves removing the green epidermis. High populations can defoliate trees. The adult is a glossy black wasp about 5 mm long. Larvae resemble small, black, elongate slugs, hence the common name pear slug. There are two generations a year. Pear saw fly overwinters as a pupa in a cocoon 5-8 cm in the soil. Adults emerge in late spring and mated females lay eggs in the upper leaf surface tissue causing small brownish blisters to appear. Second generation adults appear in August and September which produce the larvae that develop into overwintering pupae. Monitor by looking for slug-like larvae especially in the summer when populations can build up rapidly and cause severe damage. Monitor post-harvest cherry trees as untreated high populations can cause problems the following year. There is no information on natural enemies of pear saw fly in the B.C. interior. Conventional insecticides applied against other insect pests generally control pear sawfly. Malathion sprays will also control the larvae.



Pear slug larvae



Pear slug adult



Pear slug feeding damage on pear



Late-season injury to pear