

CRANBERRY GIRDLER (*Chrysoteuchia topiaria*)

Description

This little moth has been found at conifer seedling nurseries throughout BC. Adult girdlers are small delicate moths about 1.2 cm long with protruding snouts. The forewings are a pale straw colour with touches of brown, silver, and black; hind wings are silvery-grey. Caterpillars girdle seedlings in the root collar area. Damage has a ragged appearance and occurs from August to November, depending on the nursery, location, and season. In bareroot plantings, true firs and Douglas fir are the preferred host. In containers, spruce and Douglas fir have been attacked and larger stock types are preferred. Seedlings may become yellowed and chlorotic, but most damage is detected during the lift.

Life Cycle

Only one generation is produced annually. Caterpillars overwinter in debris and begin pupating in spring. Moths emerge to lay eggs in June. Emerging caterpillars cause damage until October after which they become dormant for the winter.

Hosts

Picea

Pseudotsuga



Cranberry Girdler

S. Fitzpatrick



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