

CYPRESS TIP MOTH

(*Argyresthia cupressella* Walsingham)

Description

Small, pale gold moths with dark markings. Eggs are laid in plant tips, and between leaf scales; caterpillars hatch and tunnel within the growing points of the host, killing affected tissue. Plants may appear brown as a result of heavy infestations with damage becoming noticeable in June.

Life Cycle

The moths usually lay one generation of 20 eggs in June between leaf scales in crevices or in twig crotches. Eggs hatch in about 3 weeks and larvae bore into scale leaves to feed. Young larvae are from 1.4 to 1.7 mm long and pale greenish-yellow, turning to light green near maturity when they are from 5.2 to 7.0 mm. These miners overwinter in twigs as larvae, and resume feeding in spring. Pupation occurs in April in a papery, white, spindle-shaped cocoon 5 to 5.5 mm long, with moths emerging from late April into July.

Hosts

Chamaecyparis

Cupressus

Juniperus

Thuja



Cypress Tip Moth Damage



Cypress Tip Moth - Adult

B. Duncan



Cypress Tip Moth - Larva



Cypress Tip Moth - Larvae