

TUSSOCK MOTH

(*Orgyia antiqua*)

Description

Larvae of tussock moths can be chronic pests in nurseries. The adult females cement their white egg masses to the styroblocks. When the blocks are re-used in the spring, the larvae emerge to infest container stock around May. The caterpillars are brightly coloured with yellow and black hairs, and will attack all species of conifer seedlings. Although it prefers *Abies* spp., it will move to other hosts when these are defoliated.

Life Cycle

Tussock moths overwinter as eggs. In spring, when buds break, the larvae emerge and begin feeding on new foliage. They pupate in late spring, and emerge from June to November. Moths deposit eggs either in clusters or in rows on twigs and needles.

Hosts

Abies

Larix

Pseudotsuga

Tsuga



G. Shrimpton

Tussock Moth (*Orgyia antiqua*)



Tussock Moth on *Pseudotsuga*



Rusty Tussock Moth Damage