

## **BRUCE SPANWORM AND WINTER MOTH** *(Operophtera bruceata and O. brumata)*

### **Description**

These drab grey or grey-brown moths are almost identical in appearance and habits. The Bruce spanworm is native to North America, and the winter moth is a European species that is found in Canada only on the East and West coasts. The winter moth has become established into the Lower Mainland and Richmond areas on many nursery plants as well as on commercial blueberries.

From early spring to late May or early June, the caterpillars feed on buds, foliage, flowers and fruit. Although complete defoliation may occur, only trees already under stress usually die. Trees often re-leaf by mid-July.

### **Life Cycle**

Males have a wingspan of about 25 mm and females are flightless. Full grown caterpillars are about 2 cm long, bright green with three narrow whitish stripes on each side of the body. Adult females crawl up plants in November, mate, and lay eggs that overwinter. In March, larvae emerge and spin threads to catch wind currents in order to float to other plants for feeding.

### **Hosts**

Most deciduous trees.



Adult Male Bruce Spanworms In Trap



Winter Moth Caterpillar