



## Brownheaded ash sawfly

*Tomostethus multicinctus*

Order Hymenoptera, Family Tenthredinidae;  
common sawflies  
Introduced pest

**Host plants:** Red and white ash

**Description:** Adult sawflies are wasp-like. Larvae are 15–20 mm in length. They are greenish or yellowish white with brown heads.

**Life history:** Pupation occurs in the spring. Adults emerge and deposit eggs in leaves. Larvae feed in May through June. There is one generation a year.

**Overwintering:** Prepupae in silk-lined cells in the topsoil.

**Damage symptoms:** Brownheaded ash sawfly larvae feed voraciously, consuming entire leaves. Complete defoliation can occur quickly on heavily infested trees.

**Monitoring:** Look for larvae from early May through June or for damage symptoms such as skeletonization or defoliation, particularly on terminal leaves.

**Physical control:** Manually remove larvae and colonies.

**Chemical control:** As sawflies often feed in groups, all chemicals should be directed to the areas on which they are feeding only and need not necessarily cover the entire tree.

**Biological control:** No reports of natural enemies

**Plant mortality risk:** Low

**Biorational pesticides:** azadirachtin, horticultural oil, insecticidal soap, spinosad, pyrethrins

**Conventional pesticides:** acephate, bifenthrin, carbaryl, chlorpyrifos (nursery only), cyfluthrin, deltamethrin, fluvalinate, imidacloprid, lambda-cyhalothrin, malathion, permethrin



Egg laying wound damage caused by brownheaded ash sawfly. (36)

Photo: Whitney Cranshaw



Shot hole damage caused by young brownheaded ash sawfly larvae. Larger larvae feed on leaf margins. (35)

Photo: Whitney Cranshaw



Defoliation caused by brownheaded ash sawfly larvae feeding on green ash leaf. (33)

Photo: James Solomon, USDA Forest Service, The Bugwood Network, University of Georgia.



**Brownheaded ash sawfly (continued)**



**Brownheaded ash sawfly adult. (37)**  
Photo: Whitney Cranshaw



**Brownheaded ash sawfly larva. (38)**  
Photo: Whitney Cranshaw