



Ash Leaf-Cone Roller

WHAT IS AN ASH LEAF-CONE ROLLER CATERPILLAR?

This species is a newly introduced pest of planted ash trees in urban areas. This insect feeds on the leaves of all species of true ash that are planted in Saskatoon. “Cone” is a better descriptor of the symptoms rather than the insect itself.

Eggs are laid along the mid-rib of newly emerging ash leaves. When larvae hatch after approximately one week, they begin to bore into the upper cuticle of the leaflets. The larvae will continue to feed between the dermal layers of the leaflet until they emerge as fourth instar larvae. At this point they migrate to new leaves using long threads. It is the fifth instar that will roll the leaf to prepare for pupating. These larvae are small (7mm) and creamy colour. When ready to do so, the mature caterpillar spin a cocoon inside the cone it has created. Within a few weeks the pupa push its way through the base of the coned leaflet. Soon after the adult moths emerge leaving the pupal casing behind

Adults are small moths with a wingspan of 1.2-1.4cm.

WHAT KIND OF DAMAGE DOES ASH-LEAF CONE ROLLER CATERPILLAR CAUSE?

Damage created by the ash leaf-cone roller caterpillar is not significant. Any damage that is done is purely cosmetic and the overall health of the tree is not in jeopardy. The rolled leaflets will remain attached to the tree and only a small portion will rot.

HOW DO I CONTROL ASH-LEAF CONE ROLLER CATERPILLARS?

Damage created by the ash-leaf cone roller caterpillar isn't significant enough to warrant pesticide use. The caterpillars are protected inside the cone they create and any pesticide application wouldn't be effective.

If you would like to know more about ash-leaf cone roller caterpillar, please contact the City of Saskatoon, 975-3300.



Egg and developing-leaf miner stage



Typical ash-leaf cone roller symptoms



5th instar ash-leaf cone roller

This information provided by:

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