

Invasive Insect Species

What's happening to my roses?

European Rose Slug, *Endelomyia aethiops*

Eggs:

- female sawfly slices a hole in the rose leaf with a saw-like structure on the tip of her abdomen, one egg per hole is laid between the leaf layers
- eggs are laid in early spring in conjunction with leaf development

Larvae: this is the most destructive stage

- light greenish-yellow with a tan coloured head, about 13 mm long
- larvae hatch and **begin feeding on the upper leaf surfaces**
- leaves are skeletonized causing a window-like appearance
- mature larvae chew holes in the leaves
- defoliation weakens plants

Pupae:

- larvae drop to ground, form a cocoon-like chamber and pupate in the soil
- overwinters in the pupal stage

Adults:

- sawfly adults are small, primitive wasps
- black in colour with 4 wings
- look similar to flying ants
- antennae point straight forward
- they emerge in early spring to start laying eggs



Food Preference:

- roses

Management:

- check roses for damage on a regular basis
- control measures need to be taken at the larval stage
- spray roses with jets of water to knock larvae off plants (larvae can not climb back up on plants)
- spray larvae with soapy water
- manually pick larvae off plants
- spray earlier in the day to allow roses to dry off, avoiding fungal disease problems

What can we do?

Plant resistant varieties
Monitor and control populations



For more information contact: The Parks and Recreation Department at 368-1025
www.city.charlottetown.pe.ca