

A Bug's Life

Roseslug sawfly

Bristly roseslug - Cladius difformis; Roseslug sawfly - Endelomyia aethiops

Fun facts

- Sawflies are non-stinging wasps
- Adults deposit eggs in leaf tissue with saw-like ovipositor
- Larvae feed in large numbers on underside of leaf for ~1 month
- Damage can occur very quickly
- Pupate in the soil
- 1 to 2 generations per year

Identification

Damage: Create "windowpane" skeletonization, chew irregular holes, notches in leaves of roses, destroys beauty but does not kill the plant

Larvae: Camouflaged light green, caterpillar-like, brown head, 5+ pairs of prolegs, resemble slugs

Adult: Small, dark, 1/4" long wasp

Management

- Scout underside of leaves early May
- Handpick larvae, drop in soapy water
- Strong spray of water to dislodge
- Organic options include horticultural oil, insecticidal soap, spinosad*
- Synthetic options include carbaryl and pyrethroids
- Be sure to treat underside of leaves



Photos: J. Green

*Sawfly larvae are NOT caterpillars therefore *Bacillus thuringiensis* products will NOT be effective