

A Bug's Life Spruce needleminer

Family: Tortricidae; *Taniva albolineana*

Fun facts

- Found throughout N. America
- Aesthetic damage caused by larvae
- Damage rarely kills large trees
- Larvae feed within needles before bundling several together with silk and frass; They feed secretly until fall, overwinter in the "nest", and pupate the following April
- Moths fly in May and June before laying eggs on needles
- One generation per year



Identification

Damage: Brown, hollowed out needles with hole at base; dense mats of needles on twigs and branches

Caterpillar: Greenish-brown color with shiny brown heads

Moth: Small brown and white moths with transverse lines on forewings

Host plants

- Spruce (Black Hills, Colorado blue, Meyer, Norway, Serbian, white)



Management

- Reduce tree stress by providing water and mulch for plant health
- In early spring, rake out mats or spray with strong stream of water to collect and discard debris
- Natural enemies reduce populations
- If necessary, apply foliar sprays (carbaryl, permethrin, zeta-cypermethrin) when moths are present in mid to late June to kill moths and emerging caterpillars



Photos: UNL Department of Entomology; J. Green; and Bugguide.net