

A Bug's Life Zimmerman pine moth

Dioryctria zimmermani

Fun facts

- Popcorn-like mass is telltale sign
- Overwinter as young caterpillars on bark, before boring into trunk and branches in spring
- Completes entire life cycle in/on tree
- 1 generation per year

Host plants

- Most pine species, especially white pine

Identification

Damage: Branch failure where the limb meets the trunk, branch dieback, pale yellow pitch mass of sap ooze out onto bark

Larva: Up to 3/4" long, brown head, pinkish body, small black dots

Pupa: 3/4" long, just under bark

Adult: (seldom seen) Mottled gray and brown with zig-zag lines

Management

- Reduce environmental stress with proper mulch and water
- Remove severely damaged trees
- Effective insecticidal treatment with trunk spray is dependent on caterpillar activity at the surface
- Treat April (before caterpillars enter tree) and August (when eggs hatch)
- Insecticides include bifenthrin, permethrin and chlorantraniliprole

