

Spruce Terminal Weevil



Description

The spruce terminal weevil, also known as the white pine weevil, attacks the upper (new) growth of evergreen trees (mainly spruces in our area). The adults normally overwinter under the canopy of the tree and emerge in the early spring (right after the snow melts or temps average in the 50's). Once it emerges, both male and female adults make their way to the top of the tree. They then feed by chewing on the bark of terminal (new) growth. The females seek out new growth to lay their eggs. They chew just below the terminal bud on the dormant leader from April to June.

Can potential damage be controlled or prevented?

Since this is a relatively new pest in our area, pest control applicators have been hard at work figuring out the best way to control the pest. We have had good success, however, by applying three treatments per season.

1. **Early spring (March – April):** Soil treatments under the canopy of the spruce tree, along with a trunk spray helps prevent the adult from making its way to the top of the tree.
2. **Late spring (right after the new growth appears):** This application is designed to control any adults that have made their way to the top.
3. **Fall Soil Drench:** A systemic soil drench in the fall allows the product to travel up the tree throughout the winter months. Since evergreens have such a slow metabolism the product is doing its intended job in the spring.

