

Cooley spruce galls are found on new growth of spruce trees and are produced by adelgids (aka *wooly aphids*). These insects usually require two hosts, spruce and Douglas-fir to complete their one year life cycle. Observations in Colorado suggest some spruce to spruce movement may occur during the life cycle.

Eggs hatch in the spring about the time of bud break. Nymphs migrate to the new growth and feed at the base of needles. Saliva introduced into the plant changes development producing galls.

By mid-summer the galls dry out and winged forms of insects



emerge migrating to Douglas-fir trees (or, in Colorado, possibly other spruce) where they lay eggs on needles which can produce several generations.



No galls will appear on Douglas-fir. Late in summer winged aphids fly back to spruce to deposit eggs which then over winter. Insects may need to be controlled to prevent aesthetic injury that can make trees less attractive.

The best times to spray are in spring prior to new growth or in the fall when insect stages are in the over wintering phase.