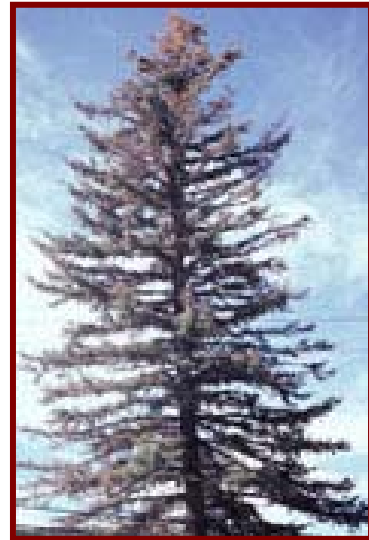


Douglas-fir tussock moth, *Orgyia pseudotsugata* McDunnough, defoliates Douglas-fir, spruce and other conifers in the Rocky Mountain region.

Continued infestations may cause death of the tree top or even the entire tree.



The moths have one generation per year with adults



appearing in late July to early September. Females are flightless laying egg masses on the pupal cocoon. The larvae feed on new needles killing but not consuming them. As the larvae mature they feed on older foliage. A heavily infested tree may be completely defoliated. Most commonly the top of the tree is killed and while

continued severe defoliation may cause mortality any infestation may cause serious aesthetic damage to the tree/s. Experience of Colorado urban foresters suggests a dead tree top be given at least one year to recover prior to removing or reshaping. Trees as much as



50% defoliated have been known to recover with proper treatment such as watering (especially in winter) and fertilizing to aid them in recovery.

Chemical application made when new foliage appears can give good control of this pest.