

Apple and Cherry Thorn Skeletonizer

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May affect (flowering and edible) Apple, Birch, Cherry, Crabapple, Hawthorn, Mountain Ash, Pear, Plum, Prune

Pest description and crop damage Adult moth is reddish brown, with a wingspread less than 0.5 inch, and irregular light and dark bands on the wings. Larvae are 0.5 inch long, yellowish to greenish, with black spots and a yellow-brown head. Pupae are yellow to brown with a white silken cocoon. Larvae skeletonize and roll leaves. Damaged leaves are brown and papery and drop prematurely. They feed on apple, crabapple, cherry, and hawthorn.

Biology and life history Adult moths overwinter in crevices in the tree. They lay eggs in small bunches on the undersides of leaves. The larvae emerge and feed on the underside of the leaves. They then move to the top surface and feed there, often tying the sides together creating a "rolled" effect. There is often more than one caterpillar in the roll, and the leaf ends up skeletonized. After 3 to 4 weeks, they pupate in the rolled leaf. Adults emerge after about 2 weeks to start a new generation. There are at least two generations per year.

Scouting and thresholds Watch for signs of skeletonizing, which from a distance looks like the leaf tips have been burned.

Management-biological control

There are many natural enemies of this pest. Avoid broad-spectrum sprays that would disrupt this system.

Management-cultural control

Larvae and pupae are easily removed from rolled leaves. Remove heavily infested twigs.

SPRING AND SUMMER

Management-chemical control: HOME USE

No chemicals are labeled for specific control of this pest on fruit trees. However, the following are registered for control of other caterpillars and should work well.

- *Bacillus thuringiensis* – *Bt Dipel* – biological control
- Spinosad - microbial



Apple and thorn skeletonizer
Choreutis pariana Clerck
Leaf Damage

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Apple and thorn skeletonizer
Choreutis pariana Clerck
Adult

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Apple and thorn skeletonizer
Choreutis pariana Clerck
Immature

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Hollingsworth, C.S. (Ed.). 2013. Pacific Northwest Insect Management Handbook.
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Use pesticides safely!

- Wear protective clothing and safety devices as recommended on the label. Bathe or shower after each use.
- Read the pesticide label—even if you've used the pesticide before. Follow closely the instructions on the label (and any other directions you have).
- Be cautious when you apply pesticides. Know your legal responsibility as a pesticide applicator. You may be liable for injury or damage resulting from pesticide use.

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