

(revision date:5/7/2015)

## ***Plum, Prune (Fresh): Apple-and-thorn skeletonizer***

*Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for successful plant problem management.*

### ***Biology***

The adult of the apple-and-thorn skeletonizer is a small dark-brown or reddish-brown moth. It overwinters as a pupa or an adult, with the females laying eggs in the spring. The caterpillars are yellow-green in color, have black spots and brown heads, and feed on the leaves of several plants including apple, crabapple, pear, cherry, and hawthorn. Caterpillars are about 1/2" long at maturity. Characteristic damage includes skeletonized leaves, or leaves that are rolled into a cone and tied with webbing. Damaged leaves are brown and papery and drop prematurely.

### ***Management Options***

#### **Non-Chemical Management**

- ~ Hand-pick and destroy caterpillars when practical.
- ~ Pinch caterpillars inside rolled leaves or prune and destroy heavily infested twigs.
- ~ Naturally-occurring enemies help control populations of apple-and-thorn skeletonizers. Avoid use of broad-spectrum insecticides which kill beneficial insects.

*Select non-chemical management options as your first choice!*

#### **Chemical Management**

***IMPORTANT: Visit Home and Garden Fact Sheets for more information on using pesticides***

Apply spinosad when caterpillars are first seen and are numerous enough to be annoying. Homeowners should not make foliar applications to trees over 10 ft tall. Consult a commercial pesticide applicator for treatment of trees and shrubs over 10 ft. tall.

**Listed below are examples of pesticides that are legal in Washington. Always read and follow all label directions.**

- ~ Bull's-Eye Bioinsecticide
  - active ingredient: spinosad (spinosyn A+D)
  - EPA reg no: 62719-314-56872
- ~ ferti-lome Borer, Bagworm, Tent Caterpillar & Leafminer Spray
  - active ingredient: spinosad (spinosyn A+D)
  - EPA reg no: 62719-314-7401
- ~ Monterey Garden Insect Spray [Organic]
  - active ingredient: spinosad (spinosyn A+D)
  - EPA reg no: 62719-314-54705
- ~ This list may not include all products registered for this use.

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*Images*



~ Caption: Apple-and-thorn skeletonizer  
~ Photo by: A.L. Antonelli