

# Rose Sawflies



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There are at least two species of sawflies that attack roses in the late spring, early summer, the rose slug (top image) and the bristly rose slug (see fourth image).

Both species overwinter as pupae in the soil. They emerge in the spring and the females lay eggs in slits along the edge of the rose leaf. The larvae hatch from the eggs and appear as a yellow-green slug with an orange head, (see images again). The larvae eventually fall to the soil and pupate.

The rose slug larvae (top image) is a smooth larvae that feeds on the underside of rose leaves, eating the area between the veins, skeletonizing the leaf, (see second image)

The bristly rose slug (fourth image) is covered in bristly hairs and also feeds on the underside of the leaf. It also eats the area between the veins causing some skeletonizing, but will chew larger holes in the leave, (see bottom image).

Both create a small black to yellow colored wasp (see middle image).

## Control

Although these larvae look like caterpillars they are not in the Lepidoptera family, so *FL Dipel* and *NG Caterpillar Killer with Bt*, will **not** be effective and offers no control.

The best bet for control, due to it's translaminar properties, is *NG Spinosad* or *NG Spinosad Soap*. It can not be washed off and offers a residue that will last up to a week, making it the most effective.

Next is *NG Insecticidal Soap* or *FL Horticultural Oil*. These are both contact controls, so you must get thorough coverage hitting both the top and underside of the leaf to the point of dripping, over spraying may be better than under spraying.

For those who prefer a chemical, *HY Lawn, Garden, Pet & Livestock Spray* is the product of choice. Improve the effectiveness and decrease the number of applications needed with the addition of *HY Spreader Sticker* to the mix.

