



# Red Headed Pine Sawfly

*Neodiprion lecontei*

## Appearance

### Adult

Females have brownish-red head and body

Males are mostly black with feathery antennae

Two pairs of dark membranous wings and a broad waist

### Larval

A brown to red 'helmet head'

Yellow to greenish body with black spots going lengthways down the body

Fully grown larvae can be 1 inch long

## Life Cycle

### Adult

Female deposits single eggs in slits cut directly into pine needles

### Egg

Small shiny and translucent can be identified by 'striped' yellow pine needles

Sawflies can complete this cycle 2-3 times per year

Pupa grow in small (0.5 in) cocoons in soil below pine trees

Can overwinter in cocoons

Emerge after 2 weeks

Can completely defoliate small pines

### Pupa

### Larval

Female sawflies are more brightly colored and 75% larger than males

0.2 - 0.3 in



Photo Credit: Lacy L. Hyche, Auburn University, Bugwood.org

## Fun Facts!

Even though they are named sawflies, they are actually a type of wasp in the order Hymenoptera, which makes them more closely related to bees and ants

When threatened larvae will vomit their stomach contents to help deter potential predators

Sawflies are considered a 'stingless wasp'. Even though the female's **ovipositor** does resemble a stinger, unlike many other wasps, it poses no physical harm to people

Female sawflies have a saw-like ovipositor to help them deposit their eggs, which is likely where their common name came from

Ovipositors are tube-like organs located opposite the head, in the rear, that female insects use to deposit eggs!



**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**  
Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources

Authors: Cassandra Waldrop and Elizabeth McCarty, Forest Health Lab, Tifton Campus, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources WSFNR 20-64A August 2020