



## Large Pine Weevil

*Hylobius abietis*

The Large Pine Weevil is a stem boring and girdling beetle found in Asia and Europe causing damage to young conifer plantations, but has been known to prefer Scots pine as a host in addition to other varieties. Damaged tissue may release chemicals that attract emerging adults from infested trees to new hosts. Adults feed at the base and roots of transplanted seedlings and in the crown of mature trees. Heavy infestations can result in stem girdling and subsequent death. This insect is currently not known to be established in the US.



Photo by naturephoto-ez.com

### Identifying Features

Adult elytra are 9-16 mm long and a purple-brown color which turns reddish brown to dark brown. Identifying features include patches of long, narrow yellow scales arranged in small groups



Photo by Oliviamichalski@deviantart.com

in irregular lines. The head also has 2 small patches of yellow scales and is extended to form a long cylindrical snout with mandibles and antennae. Fully grown larvae may be 9.5-16 mm in length.

### Damage Potential

Defoliation by *H. abietis* is especially destructive to younger seedlings not only by feeding damage, but spreading of fungus which will cause root decline in conifers. The most destruction occurs when eggs are laid in cut tree stumps where the larvae feed for several years. Adults emerge and feed on the tender bark of young saplings. Most of the continental United States has a moderate to high density of

hosts found in temperate broadleaf and mixed forests, and in temperate grasslands, savannahs and shrublands. These types of habitats account for approximately 60% of the country particularly in the East where infestation potential could be devastating.



Photo by forestryimages.org

**Information source:** [Caps.ceris.purdue.edu/manuals](http://Caps.ceris.purdue.edu/manuals) 2014 edited by:

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