



# Siberian Silk Moth

*Dendrolimus superans*

The Siberian Silk Moth is a significant defoliator of coniferous forests in Asia and has the potential to cause damage in the United States. *D. superans* has been reported to defoliate pine, fir, spruce and larch forests in Asian Russia and the Far East. Early instar larvae consume the edges of needles, while older larvae eat entire needles, cones and bark of saplings. The full life cycle takes two years (as short as one year in warmer climates)..



Photo by John H. Ghent



Photo by Natalia Kirichenko

Adult wingspan ranges from 60-80 mm with an average body length of 31 mm. The color of moths vary from light yellowish-brown or light grey to dark brown to almost black. Front wings are distinctively marked with two characteristic crossing dark stripes and a white spot in the center. The black to dark-brown caterpillar has numerous spots and long hairs. The 2nd and 3rd segments crossed by blue-black stripes. (6-8 instars occur)

## Damage Potential:

Defoliation by Siberian silk moth causes death of forests over large areas, either directly or by leaving the forest susceptible to subsequent attack by other forest pests, and/or by predisposing the forest to forest fires. The defoliation usually lasts two or three years, which many trees are unable to withstand. Furthermore, the outbreaks of Siberian Silk Moth are also often followed by outbreaks of bark beetles and woodborers. Natural regeneration of these areas is often difficult and takes much time

### Information Sources:

University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (ref: Rozhkov 1963, Mamaev 1990, Epova and Pleshanov 1995, Vorontsov 1995)