

## Pest Profile



**Photo credit:** Donald Owen, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Bugwood.org

**Common Name:** Spruce Aphid

**Scientific Name:** *Elatobium abietinum*

**Order and Family:** Hemiptera, Aphididae

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>		This species is parthenogenic (asexual) in the U. S.; can give birth to live young.
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>		
<b>Adult</b>	1.0-2.0mm	Pale to dark green in color.
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Piercing/sucking mouthparts for feeding on plant juices.

**Host plant/s:** These aphids feed on spruces including Sitka spruce, Norway spruce, and Blue spruce.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Adults and nymphs feed on the mature needles of the spruces. Needles turn yellow and shed from the tree, causing an unsightly appearance. Discoloration and drop frequency are said to be dependent on both feeding density and weather conditions. Damage is considered to be mostly aesthetic but can be quite destructive to ornamental trees.

**References:**

Dransfield, B., & Brightwell, B. (N.D.). *Elatobium abietinum*-Green Spruce Aphid. Influentialpoints.com. [http://influentialpoints.com/Gallery/Elatobium\\_abietinum\\_Green\\_spruce\\_aphid.htm](http://influentialpoints.com/Gallery/Elatobium_abietinum_Green_spruce_aphid.htm)

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Scarborough, D. (2010). Management Guide for the Spruce Aphid. Forest Health Protection and State Forestry Organizations. United States Department of Agriculture. [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5187554.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5187554.pdf)