

**Problem:** Rose Slug (*Endelomyia aethiops*) and Bristly Rose Slug (*Cladius difformis*)



**Host:** Roses

**Description:** This insect skeletonizes rose leaves. This is not a caterpillar but is the larva of a sawfly. Close examination of this small (½ inch) bristly rose slug larva will reveal very fine, hairlike spines in clusters. Those hairs are lacking on the rose slug. Otherwise the two species of larva are similar.

Young larvae will remove the green layer of a leaf leaving behind a clear material. As the larvae mature, they make holes in the leaf and eventually may consume all of the leaf but the major veins.

**Recommendations:** Since these insects are not caterpillars (larvae of moths or butterflies), BT, found in Dipel and Thuricide will not be an effective treatment. However, a strong jet of water will dislodge the slugs and make it difficult for them to return to the plant. Other effective treatments include insecticidal soap, horticultural oils, spinosad (Monterey Garden Insect Spray, Natural Guard Spinosad or Captain Jack's Deadbug Brew) and permethrin (BioAdvanced Vegetable & Garden Insect Dust, Bonide Eight Vegetable, Fruit & Flower Concentrate, Hi-Yield Garden & Farm Insect Control).

### References:

1. [Bristly Rose Slug](#), University of Illinois Extension, Home, Yard & Garden Pest Newsletter, April 30, 2010
2. [Rose and Pear Slugs \(sawflies\)](#), Missouri Botanical Garden

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