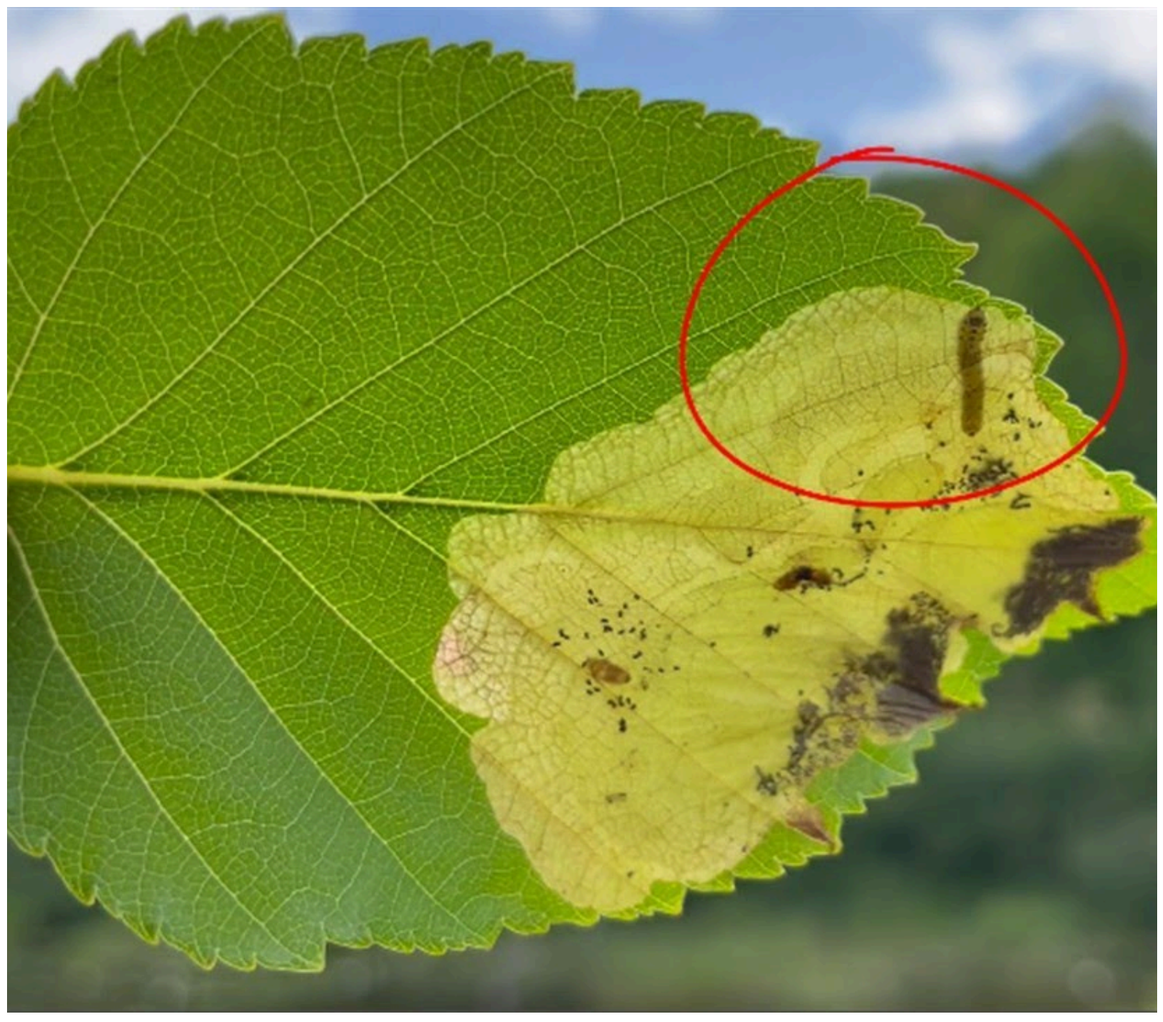
Birch Leafminer
FACT SHEET

GREEN DROP Tree Care





What they are:

Birch leafminers are sawflies (family Tenthredinidae) native to Europe and were introduced to Canadian forests between 1920 and 1960.
Sawflies are named for the saw-like ovipositor (egg-layer) at the ends of the female's abdomens. Birch leafminers attack all species of birch and have been recorded in all provinces and territories except Nunavut. There are a number of natural enemies, such as parasitic wasps.
The female sawfly cuts a slit in a birch leaf with her ovipositor and lays an egg inside the leaf, depositing its eggs singly usually near the tips of branches.

Symptoms:

Because people often do not see the early signs of Birch Lead Miner feeding, it often appears the tree has suddenly dried up or become diseased. This browning is caused by the outer layers of the leaf drying out after the larva has consumed the healthy green tissue between the outer layers of the leaf. Damage appears as small brown or red irregularly irregular shaped patches (a leaf "mine") on the upper side of a leaf.

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Prevention:

Watering & Fertilizing

- The best thing you can do for a tree with Birch leafminers is water and fertilize.

Sanitizing

- If the infestation is not severe, removing the brown leaves and litter can help to control the pest.

Chemical

- Chemical sprays are not effective since the larvae are

protected inside the leaf.

- Trunk injection of Treeazin every 2 years can be an effective control

Maintenance

- Prune any dead wood and remove cross branches.

Location

- Roots of birch trees need a cool, moist and shady location.



Contact

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