

## Aspen blotch leafminer, *Phyllonorycter tremuloidiella*

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Aspen samples are coming into the Schutter Diagnostic Lab from Gallatin Valley with large white blotches. The spots on the leaves are due to mining from the aspen blotch leafminer, which is a moth.

**Damage:** Damage is usually considered cosmetic, but sometimes heavy outbreaks can cause reduced tree growth, branch dieback, and top-kill (but generally rare for this to happen). The leafminers attack stressed trees.

**Management:** Aspens, poplars, and cottonwoods can tolerate a lot of defoliation. Usually these leafminers are controlled by natural enemies later in the summer. The best course of action is to keep the aspen trees well cared for with frequent watering. Pick off the mined leaves and dispose of them. If chemical controls are necessary, contact insecticides are most effective prior to egg laying and before the eggs have hatched and mined into the leaves. Systemic insecticides (active ingredients such as imidacloprid, dinotefuran) can be used on the leafminers but have not been very effective against the larval or caterpillar stages of the moths.

