

Insect pests of leaves and shoots

White-marked tussock moth

Mature tussock moth larvae are large (30 mm) with distinctive coloration and hairs, which can irritate the skin of pickers.



Tussock moth larvae are brightly colored. 30 mm

Female moths are flightless and lay large batches of eggs in a hairy mass, which overwinter wrapped inside blueberry leaves. These can be seen during pruning. Small, brown larvae hatch from the egg mass in the spring and disperse into the lower branches of bushes. There can be two generations per year. Scouting in the inside and bottom of bushes can help detect larvae before they reach full size. This



pest is usually more common near woods. Controlling weeds and ensuring good spray coverage improves control.

Tussock moth egg masses are laid in blueberry branches.