

Friend or Foe?

Caterpillar or Sawfly?

FRIEND!

This gorgeous caterpillar will grow into a beautiful butterfly, so we can happily give up a bit of dillweed!



Swallowtail larvae



Swallowtail butterfly

FOE! Sawflies are actually not flies but belong to the same order as wasps and bees. Adults emerge in late June/early July to lay their eggs, which quickly hatch. Sawfly larvae (currant worm) are voracious feeders and can decimate currant bushes within days.

What to do? Check daily and pick them off, or knock them off with a hard spray of water.



Sawfly larvae



Gooseberry sawfly

Images: Sawfly larvae: Daniel Mietchen; Sawfly: Gail Hampshire – Wiki Commons
Swallowtail larvae and Swallowtail butterfly – Elaine Sedgman

Sources: Gilkeson, Linda. Natural Insect, Weed & Disease Control, 2013. www.lindagilkeson.ca
Mathes, Brady. Butterfly taxonomist extraordinaire.