

LEAFMINERS

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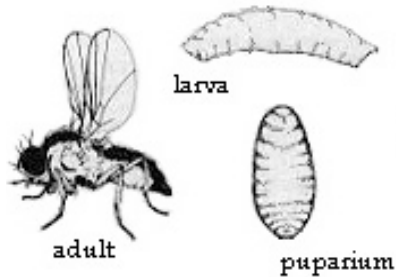


Fig. 1: Life stages of a Leafminer

DESCRIPTION: Larva: Yellow, 1/8 inch long, lives in leaves. Adult fly: Tiny, black and yellow. Several generations of this insect develop in a summer.

COMMON HOST PLANT (S): Tomato, pepper, spinach, squash and pumpkin.

DAMAGE: Larvae make long, slender, winding, white tunnels in leaves.

DISTRIBUTION: Throughout United States. Damage usually is not appreciable in the northern states.

LIFECYCLE: Female leafminers deposit eggs within leaf tissue. Larvae hatch from eggs in a few days and begin to feed on internal leaf tissues. Mature larvae emerge from inside the leaf and drop to the soil where they pupate in soil crevices, or in rare cases, they may pupate on the leaf. The time span from egg to adult is less and three weeks under optimum conditions, so many generations occur annually.

CULTURAL CONTROL: Pick and destroy infested leaves.

ORGANIC/BIOLOGICAL CONTROL: Parasitic wasps often control leafminers.

CHEMICAL CONTROL: Treat with a labeled insecticide. For Cucurbits (cantaloupes, cucumber, squash, pumpkins, and watermelons): Treat when damage appears; repeat as needed.

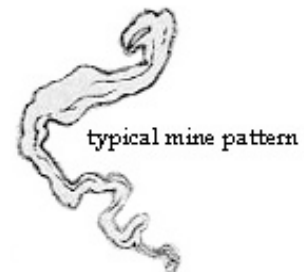


Fig. 2: Example of Leafminer damage