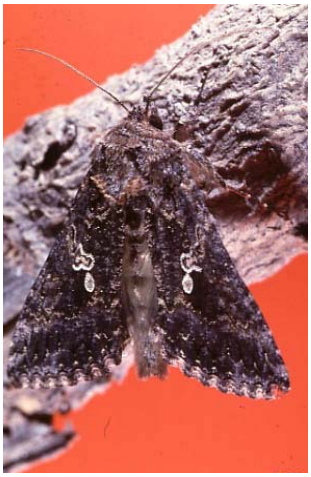
Cabbage Looper

Trichoplusia ni (Hübner) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae)

(Origin: ?)



Cabbage Looper Adult

Primary Host: Cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, radish, mustard, kale, lettuce, celery, spinach, beets, peas, potato, tomato.

Damage: Caterpillars eat large irregular holes in leaves and into heads, causing stunted growth, failure of heads to form, or make produce unmarketable.

Management: Usually more serious in the fall. Should be controlled when small because large loopers are difficult to control.

Biocontrols: The tachinid fly, *Voria ruralis*, is the dominant cause of cabbage looper death.

Cultural Controls: Plant resistant varieties such as Mammoth Red Rock or Chieftan Savoy.

Physical Controls: Hand picking works for small patches. Cover plants with a floating row cover to keep adults from laying eggs on plants.

Chemical Controls: Contact your local Penn State County Extension Agent for more information. http://www.extension.psu.edu/extmap.html

Insect Description:

Adults: Forewings mottled gray-brown in color with silvery white spots. Hindwings are brown at base and near the edge. Wing-span is about $1^{3}/_{8}$" in extent.

Pupae: White, thin, fragile cocoon on underside of foliage, in plant debris, or in soil clods.

Larvae: Light green. When crawling, make a characteristic loop in the middle of their body.

Eggs: Yellowish white or greenish, usually laid singly on underside of mature leaves.

Life History: Cabbage loopers overwinter as pupae attached to host plants and other nearby objects. The adults emerge in the spring and lay several hundred eggs singly on the upper surfaces of host plant leaves. Larval development may be completed in two weeks if weather is favorable, and the cabbage looper can have three or more generations per year in the northern United States.

Cabbage Looper Larva

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