

# Cabbage Maggot

*Delia radicum* (L.) (Diptera: Anthomyiidae)

(Origin: Native)



Adult Cabbage Maggot

**Primary Host:** Crucifers.

**Damage:** Larvae tunnel into roots of small plants causing plants to appear sickly, off color or stunted, and may cause plant to die. Cabbage maggot injury is favored by cool, wet conditions.

**Management:** Plowing under crop residues after harvest will destroy many pupae.

**Biocontrols:** Ground beetles and nematodes may help control maggots.

**Cultural Controls:** High levels of organic matter may increase the attractiveness of the field to cabbage maggot flies.

**Physical Controls:** Cover plants with floating row cover to keep adult flies 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:** ¼" long gray body with 3 black longitudinal stripes on thorax and 1 black stripe along top of abdomen. Resemble small house flies.

**Pupae:** About ¼" long and brown.

**Larvae:** Small, legless, white maggots, reaching maximum length of about ¼".

**Eggs:** Oval shaped, bone white and very small. Usually on plant or soil near the stem.

**Life History:** Overwinter as pupae in the soil. Flies emerge from soil in late April or early May, feed on pollen and nectar, and lay white eggs at bases of newly set plants. Larvae from this generation tunnel in the roots of small plants, causing plants to become stunted. When mature, maggots pupate in roots or surrounding soil. Disk or rototill 2 weeks before planting to destroy the pupae.



Cabbage Maggot Larva