

Diamondback Moth

Plutella xylostella (L.) (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae)

(Origin: Europe)



Adult Diamondback Moth

Primary Host: Cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, radish, mustard, kale.

Damage: Larvae eat many small holes on underside of leaves, giving plant a shot-hole appearance.

Management: Caterpillars are detected by visual observation of the plant. Adults can be detected with pheromone traps.

Biocontrols: Several hymenopterous parasitoids will attack the caterpillars.

Cultural Controls: Plant resistant varieties of crops.

Physical Controls: Moths overwinter in the field, so destroying or plowing under crop debris is recommended.

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

Insect Description:

Adults: About $\frac{3}{8}$ " long; gray or brownish color with 3 pale triangular markings along the inner margin of wings. At rest, the triangles form 3 diamond shapes along the middle of the wings.

Pupae: White silk mesh cocoon formed on surface of leaf or in litter under the plant; about $\frac{3}{8}$ " long.

Larvae: About $\frac{3}{8}$ " long; light brown to dark green in color. Usually found on the undersides of leaves.

Eggs: Tiny, yellow, laid under leaves near veins.

Life History: The life cycle can be completed in two weeks to a month depending on temperatures. Upon hatching from the eggs, larvae tunnel into the leaves mining them for about a week. They then exit through the underside and feed externally. When disturbed, the larvae drop on a silken thread, and later climb back onto the leaf.



Diamondback Moth Larva