

Imported Cabbageworm

Pieris rapae (L.) (Lepidoptera: Pieridae)
(Origin: Europe)



Imported Cabbageworm Adult

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

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

Management: Masses of wet, greenish-brown excrement deep among leaves is characteristic of this pest.

Biocontrols: Several hymenopterous parasitoids attack the caterpillars as well as virus and bacterial diseases.

Cultural Controls: Resistant cabbage varieties should be planted. Row covers prevent egg laying.

Physical Controls: Handpick larvae and eggs.

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

Insect Description:

Adults: Common white butterfly with black spots and wing tips. The female has 2 spots on each forewing, while the male has 1.

Pupae: Sharply angled chrysalis is gray, green, or brown, attached to lower leaf surface by silken loop.

Larvae: Velvet-like green larva has a faint yellow stripe down its back, and a row of faint yellow spots on each side.

Eggs: Tiny, pale yellow, bullet-shaped.

Life History: Overwinter as pupae attached to host plant debris. Adults emerge early in spring. Soon after mating, eggs are deposited singly on host plants. Larvae are commonly found on under-sides of leaves, and bore into the center of the head as they grow. When mature, a chrysalis is formed. There may be several generations in a year.



Imported Cabbageworm Larva