

Tomato Hornworm

Manduca quinquemaculata (Haworth)
(Lepidoptera: Sphingidae)

(Origin: Native)



Tomato Hornworm Adult

Primary Host: Tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, eggplants.

Damage: Tomato hornworm and close relative, the tobacco hornworm eat large amounts of green foliage.

Management: Easily detected by presence of droppings resembling those produced by rabbits.

Biocontrols: Parasites that pupate on hornworm's body kills many of them. Do not destroy hornworms with small white cocoons on them. These are cocoons of parasites of the hornworms.

Cultural Controls: Fall plowing destroys many pupae.

Physical Controls: Hand pick larvae from plants.

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

Insect Description:

Adults: Brown or gray mottled with white. Hindwings have distinct dark zigzag stripes running diagonally. Wing spread is more than 4".

Pupae: Brown, hard-shelled, spindle-shaped and about 2" long. Found in the soil.

Larvae: Up to 3-4" in length, usually blue-green, have a "tail" or horn on 2nd to last segment and have 7-8 white stripes running diagonally along side of body.

Eggs: Spherical greenish-yellow, laid on leaf undersides.

Life History: Overwinters as pupae in the ground. In June or July, adults emerge, mate and lay eggs on the underside of leaves. Within a week, larvae hatch and begin feeding. Toward the end of August, the larvae drop to the ground, burrow in and pupate. There is one generation per year.



Tomato Hornworm Larva