

Darksided Cutworm

Euxoa messoria
(Harris)



Darksided cutworm larva
John Gavloski, Manitoba Agriculture

OTHER COMMON NAME
Reaper dart moth

FRENCH COMMON NAME
Ver-gris moissonneur

IDENTIFICATION

ADULTS: Forewings grayish, each with an oval and a kidney-shaped paler spot with darker margins among irregular dark lines. Wingspan of about 35 mm.

MATURE LARVAE: Hairless, up to 37 mm in length. Grayish in colour with a prominent white stripe along each side just above the legs; upper surface with a reddish background colour. Head is orange-brown with darker spots.

DISTRIBUTION

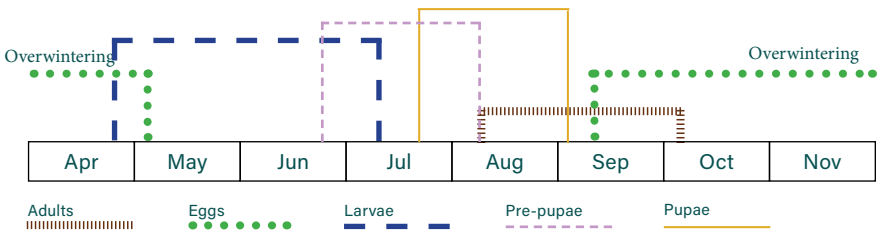
Native to North America. Distributed from Atlantic to Pacific coasts, north from the southern USA into southern Canada.

LIFE CYCLE

Females lay up to 1000 eggs in soil or under debris in cultivated fields. Mature larvae enter a non-feeding pre-pupal stage for about 30 days before pupating. One generation per year.

HOSTS

Broad range of herbaceous and woody hosts including vegetables, cereals, canola, corn, tobacco, flax, sunflower, vine, berry and tree fruits.



FEEDING DAMAGE

ABOVE-GROUND (CLIMBING) CUTWORM:

Larvae feed at night on the leaves and stems of young plants causing defoliation and death. Areas of bare soil increasing in size soon after crop emergence may indicate cutworm feeding damage.

MONITORING/CONTROL

Inspect bare patches and surrounding margins for larvae, which hide at the base of plants during the day. Count the number of larvae in a 50 cm x 50 cm area of the crop; multiply by four to estimate the number of larvae per m². Repeat this process 5 to 10 times at 50 m intervals.

Insecticide treatments may be warranted if economic thresholds are exceeded, but take steps to minimize effects on natural enemies; see *General Control Options* (p. 26).



Darksided cutworm pupa
John Gavloski, Manitoba Agriculture



Darksided cutworm adult
cc-by-nc-sa 3.0 Phil Meyers

ECONOMIC THRESHOLD

CEREAL AND OILSEED CROPS: 5-6 larvae/m² (Phillip 2015).

PEAS: 2-3 larvae/m².

DRY BEANS AND SOY BEANS: 1 small (<2.5 cm long) larva/m of row or 20% of plants cut.

NOTES

Larvae are similar in colour to redbacked cutworm.

The most destructive pest of tobacco throughout most tobacco growing regions of Canada (Cheng 1984). Can be particularly damaging to buds of trees and shrubs (Walkden 1950).



Cutworm Pests of Crops on the Canadian Prairies

Identification and Management Field Guide



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

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Agroalimentaire Canada

Canada

Cutworm Pests of Crops on the Canadian Prairies: Identification and Management Field Guide

Cover photo: Armyworm cutworm larva and damage,
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