



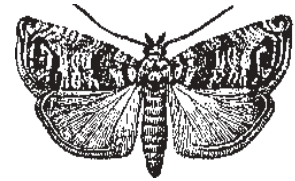
Tree Fruit

Codling Moth

Pest **2**
Fact
Sheet

Introduction

Once thought of as the most destructive insect pest on apple, this European native now exists wherever apples are grown in the U.S. Since the introduction of chemical controls, this insect has been well controlled, but if left unchecked, it can and has been known to claim up to 95% of a season's apple crop. In New Hampshire, the insect is of minor importance in commercial orchards. Chemicals that are applied to control other insects (curculio, apple maggot for example) also provide control of codling moth.



Description

The adult codling moth is a grey colored moth with a brownish black area at the tip of the front wings and faint, wavy, brown crossbands on the rest of the wings. The wing span is from 6-8 mm. The larva ranges in color from cream to pink, with a brown head capsule and a speckled shield behind the head. Eggs are colorless to white flat discs, slightly oval in shape.

Life cycle

The codling moth overwinters as a full-grown larva in a silken cocoon on the tree or on the ground. Pupation occurs in early spring (late April) and has a duration of about one month. The first adult flight starts approximately the same time the apple trees are in full bloom, but peak flight does not occur until after petal fall. Eggs are laid singly on leaves near the fruit. Incubation takes 7-8 days. Early hatching larvae can be seen about the time of the second cover spray. The larvae may feed on the leaves but will soon enter into the fruit, usually by the calyx (blossom) end. By mid-July, the larvae leave the fruit and pupate either on the tree or in the soil. The second adult flight period then begins in late July-early August. The second period of larval feeding is during August and into September. This second generation usually takes a higher toll of fruit than does the first generation. During the middle of September to early October, depending upon weather conditions, the fully grown larva will form a silken cocoon (hibernaculum) and overwinter in this stage.

Control

Guidelines for control of the codling moth are in the annually revised New England Apple Pest Management Guide and other publications of UNH Cooperative Extension. Careful use of chemical sprays is the method most commonly used, and two sprays are usually required. The first codling moth spray is applied from 10-24 days after petal fall and is principally directed against the plum curculio. Codling moth is a secondary target. The second treatment is usually in late July or early August, principally directed against apple maggot.

Contact your county Extension Agricultural Educator (see telephone numbers below) for specific pesticide recommendations.

Summary

Damaging stage	Larva
Part of plant attacked	Developing & mature fruit
Overwintering stage	Full grown larva
Number of generations per year	Two
Time of year when damage is done	Principally July & August
Number of pesticide applications per year	Usually two

UNH Cooperative Extension County Office Telephone Numbers

Belknap (603) 527-5475	Carroll (603) 539-3331	Cheshire (603) 352-4550	Coos (603) 788-4961	Grafton (603) 787-6944
Hillsborough Milford (603) 641-6060	Merrimack (603) 225-5505 (603) 796-2151	Rockingham Brentwood, NH 03833 (603) 679-5616	Strafford (603) 749-4445	Sullivan (603) 863-9200

Stop! It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. Store pesticides in their original containers in a locked cabinet or shed away from food. Dispose of unused pesticides or empty containers safely, according to NH regulations. If you suspect pesticide poisoning, call the New Hampshire Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222.



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