

Pest Profile



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Common Name: Potato stalk borer

Scientific Name: *Trichobaris trinotata*

Order and Family: Coleoptera; Curculionidae

Size and Appearance:

| | Length (mm) | Appearance |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---|
| Egg | .65 mm | - Laid singly inside plant stems - White, oval shaped |
| Larva/Nymph | 9-11 mm | - Yellowish or white grub with a brown head |
| Adult | 2.5-5 mm | - A long snout-nosed beetle - Blue-gray in color with fine gray hairs and three black spots at the base of its wing covers |
| Pupa (if applicable) | | - Pupation occurs within the plant - The pupal case is made out of plant particles - The pupa is oval shaped and resembles the adult except with poorly developed wings - White or yellow in color initially but will turn dark in the final days before the adult emerges |

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Both larvae and adults are chewing feeders.

Host plant/s: Potatoes, eggplants, ground-cherries, and tomatoes.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): The adults only feed in the spring before oviposition, feeding on plant leaves and causing irregular holes in the foliage. Adult females chew pits in the plant's stem, where they lay their eggs. Once the larvae hatch, they will cause the most damage by chewing their way from the hatching point downward to the petiole of the leaf. Occasionally, the larvae will burrow into the roots. This damage causes plants to wilt and die.

References:

Cranshaw, W. (2004). *Garden insects of North America: The ultimate guide to backyard bugs*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

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OrganicGardenInfo.org. (n.d.). Potato Stalk Borer. Retrieved March 11, 2016, from <http://www.organicgardeninfo.com/potato-stalk-borer.html>