

Pest Profile



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Common Name: Soybean looper

Scientific Name: *Pseudoplusia includens*

Order and Family: Lepidoptera; Noctuidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva	35 mm	-green caterpillar, sometimes with pale, longitudinal stripes and small dark spots -thick body of the looper gradually narrows from the rear to the small head -three pairs of prolegs
Adult	wingspan of 30 to 39mm	-mottled brown forewings with a golden sheen and prominent silver markings near the center - hind wings are dusky brown
Pupa		

Type of feeder: Chewing

Host plants: Soybeans, sweet potatoes, peanuts, cotton, tomato, pea, tobacco, and cocklebur

Description of Damage: Larvae chew leaves of various plants, occasionally causing serious defoliation. Late stages tend to tunnel into the plants, causing additional injury. In soybeans, the larvae tend to feed off of the soybean pods.

References:

Cranshaw, W. (2004). *The Ultimate Guide to Backyard Bugs: Garden Insects of North America*. Princeton University Press.