

## Pest Profile



Photo credit: Adult: [Sarefo](#) Larva: [James Lindsey](#) at Ecology of Commanster

**Common Name:** Imported cabbageworm/Cabbage butterfly/Cabbage white

**Scientific Name:** *Pieris rapae*

**Order and Family:** Lepidoptera; Pieridae

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>	0.55 mm in width and 1.0 mm in length	-Singly laid -Initially are pale white in color then turn yellowish
<b>Larva</b>	3.2-mm-30.1 mm	-Green and very hairy, has an almost velvet-like appearance -Five pairs of prolegs
<b>Adult</b>	Wing span of about 4.5 to 6.5cm	-White color with black at the tips of the forewings -Front wings are marked with black dots: two in the center of each forewing in the female, and one in case of males -Hind wing of each sex also bears a black spot on the anterior edge
<b>Pupa</b>	18 to 20 mm	-Yellow, gray, green and speckled brown

**Type of feeder:** Siphoning-sucking (adult); Chewing (larvae)

**Host plants:** Larvae widely feed on plants in the family Cruciferae, but occasionally on a few other plant families that contain mustard oils. Vegetable crops such as broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, collard, horseradish, kale, and kohlrabi, are commonly attacked. Flowers such as nasturtium and sweet alyssum, and weeds in the family Cruciferae, are sometimes attacked. Adults sip nectar from flowers and are commonly seen feeding at a number of plants.

**Description of Damage:** Larvae feed on foliage and often cause defoliation of mature plants to stem and large veins if left unchecked. They prefer leafy foliage; however, larvae may burrow into the heads of broccoli and cabbage, especially as they mature. Larvae are often motionless, and difficult to dislodge, and may be overlooked when cleaning produce. The copious quantities of fecal material produced by larvae also contaminate and stain produce. Seedlings may be damaged, but the damage to marketed parts of the plants is where the most losses occur.

#### **References:**

How to Manage Pests. (n.d.). Retrieved January 31, 2016, from <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r108301111.html>

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