

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Frank Peairs, Colorado State University, bugwood.org

Common Name: Sunflower Maggot

Scientific Name: *Strauzia longipennis*

Order and Family: Diptera, Tephritidae

Size and Appearance:

| | Length (mm) | Appearance |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Egg | About 1 mm in long and 0.35 mm in width. | - White and oval shaped, laid just under the epidermal layer of the apical meristem. |
| Larva/Nymph | 7mm long at maturity. | - Larvae are creamy white maggots with no head or legs - They have eight abdominal segments and posterior spiracles |
| Adult | 6 to 8 mm long with a wingspan of 13 mm. | - Adults are creamy yellow flies with metallic green eyes and transparent wings. - Wings have a brown pattern on them that form the shape of a capital "F" at the edge of the wing tips. - Females are usually slightly larger than the males, and males often have darker markings on the wings. |
| Pupa (if applicable) | 6 mm long. | - The pupa has a yellow puparium that is 6 mm long and 2.25 mm wide. |

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Chewing, rasping

Host plant/s: The sunflower maggot primarily feeds on sunflowers though it will also feed on some other species in the Asteraceae.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Larvae cause the most significant damage by burrowing into the stem of the host sunflower and eating the pith in the center of the stem. Damage caused from larval feeding is usually light. Weakening of the stem may be the primary symptom of damage caused by the maggots. Stems may break but usually only under high winds. Under severe infestations, the entire pith may be destroyed and larvae may move into other parts of the plant. Also, the damage from the larvae may cause seeds to fill poorly, causing decrease in seed fill.

Adults technically cause minimal damage when they lay their eggs into the plant tissue. This may leave a small mark or scar but it is really minimal.

References:

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