

# Pest Profile



Photo credit: USDA ARS European Biological Control Laboratory, Bugwood.org (*Dasineura capsulae*)

**Common Name:** Pear leafcurling midge

**Scientific Name:** *Dasineura pyri*

**Order and Family:** Diptera; Cecidomyiidae

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>	.3mm	-Yellow in color, elongated. -A bright red eyespot appears soon after an egg is laid. - Eggs also see sometimes described as reddish
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	2mm	-Legless, orange in color at first but later turns white.
<b>Adult</b>	1-2mm	-The adult is a grayish black midge (small fly) -Females have a very long ovipositor (up to body length)
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		-The pupa is roughly the same size as the mature maggot, and is brown and cylindrical.

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Adults: Piercing/sucking Larva: Chewing

**Host plant/s:** The pear leafcurling midge is a pest only on pear. However, different pear varieties differ in susceptibility to attack by the pear leafcurling midge. Clapps Favorite, Red Bartlett and Alexander appear to be very susceptible; Anjou, Bosc and Bartlett seem to be moderately susceptible; and Conference and Passe Crassane varieties are slightly susceptible.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Feeding by larvae curls infested leaves. Affected leaves are tightly rolled parallel to the midrib and have red, gall-like swellings. Later, infested leaves turn black and

fall. Young trees with excessive terminal growth are particularly susceptible to attack. Extensive feeding damage can stunt young trees.

**References:**

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

Riedi, H. (1993). Pear leafcurling midge. Retrieved from <http://jenny.tfrec.wsu.edu/opm/displaySpecies.php?pn=650>.