

Pest Profile



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Common Name: Walnut Husk Fly

Scientific Name: *Rhagoletis completa*

Order and Family: Diptera; Tephritidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	1 mm	-Elongate, slightly curved -A freshly laid egg is pearly white.
Larva	13 mm when mature	-A newly hatched larva is maggot-like and white except for its dark mouth parts -Larva turns yellow as it matures
Adult	6 mm	-Large, iridescent, greenish eyes -Tawny brown body color -Three prominent dark bands on wings, one of which extends around the wing to form a V-shape. -Yellow spot on back
Pupa	10 mm	-Straw colored -Dark brown anterior spiracles

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

Host plants: The most injurious species among the several fruit flies found in the Los Angeles basin is the Walnut Husk Fly (*Rhagoletis completa*), whose larvae primarily infests walnuts. It feeds on black walnut and on all varieties of English walnut, but some early maturing varieties can escape infestations in most years. It was introduced into Southern California (specifically, into Chino) from the eastern United States in 1926.

Description of Damage: The primary damage from the husk fly is nutshell staining, which is a problem in commercial orchards where nuts are grown for in-shell sale; however, this can be tolerated in backyard situations. Feeding by the husk fly maggots also causes the damaged husks to stick to the shell, making them difficult to remove. The maggots destroy the husk, but their feeding may also result in reduction of

kernel quality. An early season husk fly infestation (June to mid-August) can result in shriveled, moldy kernels. This species has severely depressed walnut cultivation in the Los Angeles and greater Southern California region.

References:

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