

## Pest Profile



Photo credit: David Almquistl, bugguide.net



Photo credit: Glenn Pinsent, bugguide.net

**Common Name:** Fall Armyworm

**Scientific Name:** *Spodoptera frugiperda*

**Order and Family:** Lepidoptera, Noctuidae

**Size and Appearance:**

	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Egg</b>	<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	<b>Pupae (if applicable)</b>
<b>Length (mm)</b>	20 to 25 mm long with wingspan of 25-40 mm.		Larvae are about 30 to 40 mm long when full grown.	13 to 17mm in length.

<b>Appearance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forewings are shaded grey to brown with light and dark splotches.</li> <li>- Hindwings are grayish-white.</li> <li>-Males have a white spot near each wing tip.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Eggs are laid in clusters.</li> <li>-Are white in color and spherical shape.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Larvae vary in color from light tan to green or nearly black with several sub-dorsal and lateral stripes running along the body.</li> <li>- Distinct white inverted Y-shape mark on the front of the head.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupae are reddish brown.</li> </ul>
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**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Chewing, larvae.

**Host plant/s:** Fall armyworm has a wide range of host plants, but maize is its most important host, at least in United States. The larvae feed on a variety of grass, grain, and vegetables including alfalfa, barley, Bermuda grass, buckwheat, ryegrass, sorghum, soybean, wheat, and rice, among others.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Larvae are able to chew through leaf tissue (foliar feeding), eating the edges of the leaves first and working their way inward. The larvae are known to cause complete destruction to corn foliage. They are also known to burrow into the growing point (bud, whorl, etc.) and completely destroy the plant's ability to recover from the damages caused by the insect. In addition to eating the leaves, fall armyworm can also burrow straight through the husk and directly into the ear of the corn or feed on the tip of the ear.

**References:**

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