

Pest Profile



Photo credit: David Cappaert, Bugwood.org; David Cappaert, Bugwood.org

Common Name: Diamondback Moth

Scientific Name: *Plutella xylostella*

Order and Family: Lepidoptera, Plutellidae

Size and Appearance: Adults moths are slender, 1/3 inch long (8mm), greyish-brown in color and have wings that point up and outward at the rear of the insect. When the moth is at rest with its wings together, yellow diamond-shaped spots are visible along the top of the moth's body, hence its name. Larvae when mature are 1/3 inch long (8mm) and are a greenish-yellow color. Both ends of the larvae are tapered.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	0.44x0.26mm	Yellowish white or pale green in color; round shaped; laid on underside of leaves singly or in clusters of 2-3 eggs; hatch in 5-10 days.
Larva/Nymph	8mm	Greenish yellow in color; both ends are tapered; back pair of prolegs form a V shape extending past the rear; have 4 instars; if disturbed will wiggle and drop from the leaf hanging on a silk thread.
Adult	8mm	Grayish brown in color; when folded wings have row of 3 yellow diamond shaped spots on the back.
Pupa (if applicable)	7-9mm	Pupa is yellowish in color; forms loose silk cocoon attached to leaves.

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

Host plant/s: Plants in the family Cruciferae (cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cruciferous weeds, kale, mustard, etc.)

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Early instar larvae begin mining leaves, resulting in small white tunnels. Later instars feed on the heart leaves of young plants as well as the underside of leaves of

older plants, leaving the upper leaf surface intact, which results in a window like appearance on the feeding site. Adults do not cause feeding damage, only larvae do.

References:

Andaloro, J.T., Baker, P.B. (1983). Diamondback Moth. Vegetable Crops. Cornell University. Retrieved January 12, 2016, from: <https://ecommons.cornell.edu/handle/1813/43269>

Capinera, J. L. (2000). Diamondback moth - *Plutella xylostella* (Linnaeus). University of Florida. Retrieved January 11, 2016, from: http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/veg/leaf/diamondback_moth.htm

Delahaut, K. (2004). Diamondback Moth. University of Wisconsin-Extension. Retrieved January 12, 2016, from: <https://hort.uwex.edu/articles/diamondback-moth/>

McGrath, D., Opfer, P., Green, J. (n.d.). Diamondback Moth. Oregon State University. Retrieved January 11, 2016, from: <http://horticulture.oregonstate.edu/content/diamondback-moth>