

Pest Profile



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Gyorgy Csoka, Hungary Forest Research Institute, Bugwood.org

Common Name: Codling Moth

Scientific Name: *Cydia pomonella*

Order and Family: Lepidoptera, Tortricidae

Size and Appearance: Larvae are white to pale pink colored with a dark head. They are routinely found in the fruit of the apple and pear. Larvae are full grown after 3-4 weeks and leave the fruit to pupate. Adults are approximately ½ inch long grey moths, with copper tipped forewings spanning 0.75 inch. The hind wings are copper brown in color. The moth holds its wings tent-like over its body when at rest. Its appearance blends well with most tree bark, which makes it difficult to detect.

| | Length (mm) | Appearance |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|---|
| Egg | 1.0-1.25mm | Oval disc shaped; transparent; develops red ring; laid singly on leaves and fruits. |
| Larva/Nymph | 2-20mm | White to pale pink in color; young larvae have a black head; have 5 instars; older larvae turn pinkish and have a brown head. |
| Adult | 10-12mm | Gray with copper color on forewing tips; hindwings are copper brown color. |
| Pupa (if applicable) | 12mm | Brown in color and long; inside silk cocoon that is hidden under bark or other secluded places. |

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

Host plant/s: Primarily feed on apple and pear fruits. Occasionally also feed on apricot, peach, and crabapple.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Larvae may first feed on the leaves before they enter the fruit through the flower but most damage is done to the fruit. Larvae bore into the fruits of apple and pear and feed on the seeds that are developing. They often leave holes in the fruit that are filled with

red-brown colored frass droppings. The codling moth can cause surface damage to the fruit called a sting or deep interior damage called deep entry where the larvae feed on the seeds. Stings are low surface entries where the larvae failed to enter and left to try another entry point. The codling moth is considered the most important tree fruit insect pest in North America

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