

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Common Name: Seedcorn Maggot

Scientific Name: *Delia platura*

Order and Family: Diptera, Anthomyiidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	1.6 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• white• elongated• deposited in loose groups among the debris and around plant stems near the soil surface
Larva/Nymph	6.0 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• pale yellowish-white• full-grown maggots are legless• cylindrical• narrow• tapered• lacks a defined head and legs• has small black mouth hooks at the front of its body
Adult	4.0 – 5.0 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• flies are small• grayish-brown• males have gray stripes on the thorax• abdomen usually smaller than houseflies, relative to the overall body size
Pupa (if applicable)	4.8 – 6.4 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• dark brown to black• barrel shaped• found in the soil near roots

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

Host plant/s: There are more than 40 different host plants. Some important host plants include corn, soybean, bean, pea, cucumber, melon, onion, pepper, potato, and other vegetables.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Larvae develop on seeds and seedlings, preventing successful emergence or wounding seedlings, particularly at the growing point. They feed on the seed

contents, often leaving empty seed shells and preventing germination. The seedlings that germinate despite the damage are spindly, have few leaves, and die before maturation. Reduction in plant stand is visible within one week after plant emergence.

References:

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Seedcorn Maggot. (2009). Retrieved January 15, 2016, from Purdue University Field Crops IPM:
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