

## Cabbage Worms

Three species of caterpillars (imported cabbageworm, cabbage looper, and diamondback moth) all feed on the leaves of cabbage, broccoli, and other cole crops. Usually they chew holes through the leaves or eat the surface, leaving tissue-like windows in leaves, but very small diamondback larvae tunnel inside the leaf. Much of the feeding is on the older leaves, which can be tolerated at moderate levels. The most serious damage occurs when they feed directly on the harvestable part of the plant.



### Control

- Use row covers to prevent adults from laying eggs on plants.
- The worms can be hand-picked from plants.
- Make Bt or chemical applications when larvae are less than ½" long (read the label FIRST).
- All three species are attacked by various parasites in the egg, larval and pupal stages, and can be affected by virus diseases.

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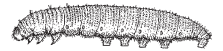
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## Additional Resources

### Cabbage Worms

- UW-Extension Garden Fact Sheet XHT1029, *Cabbage Looper*, at <https://hort.uwex.edu/articles/cabbage-looper/>
- UW-Extension Garden Fact Sheet XHT1031, *Diamondback Moth*, at <https://hort.uwex.edu/articles/diamondback-moth/>
- UW-Extension Garden Fact Sheet XHT1032, *Imported Cabbageworm*, at <https://hort.uwex.edu/articles/imported-cabbageworm/>
- UW-Extension Publication A3724-E, *Caterpillar Pests of Cole Crops*, at <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Caterpillar-Pests-of-Cole-Crops-P565.aspx>

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