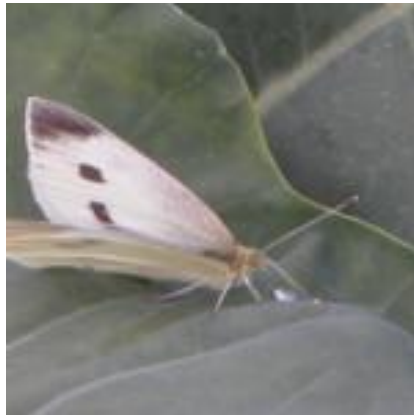


Vegetable Pest Alert

June 16, 2023

Imported cabbageworm butterflies are flying now and eggs are being laid. It is especially important to check cabbage or broccoli plantings as they begin forming heads. Feeding damage can be found on the underside of leaves or in the center of the plant where heads are forming. Look for tiny feeding holes, clustered together. Often it is easier to spot the feeding damage first, and then find the caterpillar.



Imported cabbageworm adult *left* (photo: Dan Ferro), eggs *center* (photo: Utah State Univ.) and caterpillar (photo: S. Ghimire)

Scout fields by checking leaves (top and bottom) on 25 plants across the field. Treat when 35% or more of the young cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower plants (before head formation begins; pre-cupping) are infested. Treat plants between the start of heading and harvest if 20% or more of the plants are infested. The most critical time to scout and apply chemical controls is just prior to head formation. Use a 10% to 15% threshold throughout the season for kale, collards, mustard, and other leafy greens. Bt products XenTari (*Bt aizawai*) and Dipel (*Bt kurstaki*) work well against all caterpillar pests and are OMRI-approved. Use a spreader-sticker to help materials adhere to waxy brassica leaves. For other spray options see <https://nevegetable.org/crops/insect-control-3>.

Potato leafhoppers are being seen in beans and potatoes. They are also an important pest of eggplant. Presence of nymphs indicates an established population. Signs of injury begin with leaf veins turning pale, followed by yellowing or browning of areas of the leaf or leaf tips, which is known as 'hopperburn'. Leaves become brown, curl up, and die. Plants may be stunted, and

yields reduced or lost. This process may take less than a week. PLH may also vector many viruses.

Scout using sweep net or observing adults flying up when plants are shaken. Nymphs can be counted on undersides of leaves. Seedling beans should be treated if they have 2 adults per foot of row. From 3rd trifoliolate leaf to bud stage, treat when PLH exceed 1 nymph/leaflet or 5 adults per foot of row, and repeat application in 7 to 10 days, if necessary. In potatoes, treat if more than 1 adult per sweep is found or more than 15 nymphs are found per 50 leaves. Be sure to treat lower leaf surfaces. In fields where a systemic seed treatment was used, foliar treatment should not be needed before bloom. See <http://nevegetable.org/crops/insect-control-18> for spray options.



Hopperburn from potato leafhopper feeding damage

Continue to be on the lookout for the following pests that were covered in [the previous pest alerts \(2023\)](#):

- **Squash bugs**
- **Colorado potato beetles**
- **Striped cucumber beetles**
- **Onion thrips**
- **Solanaceous flea beetles**
- **Brassica flea beetles**

This report is prepared by Shuresh Ghimire, UConn Extension.

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