



Greenhouse Pest Message, September 18, 2023

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Fall Crops Update

While celosia is a commonly grown as a cut flower and for spring bedding plant sales, it has been increasing in popularity as a potted fall crop in flower with the traditional fall crops of garden mums, asters, ornamental cabbage and kale and ornamental peppers.

A new (to me) pest that has been reported in CT and LI this month is the Hawaiian beet webworm. It is a migratory pest. The last report I could find online was when it was reported in New Jersey in the fall of 2018 (see below). The larvae chews holes in the leaves of beets, chard, spinach, and edible amaranth. (*Celosia argentea* is also in the Amaranthaceae family). Hawaiian beet webworm also feed on weeds including pigweeds, lambsquarters, and purslane. Check weedy areas outside your production area for signs of the larvae feeding damage. It takes about 9-13 days for the larvae to mature. Conserve (spinosad) IRAC 5 may be used against the larvae.



Beet webworm caterpillar and adults. Photos: A. N. Sparks, Jr. Univ. of GA, Bugwood.org and Rutgers University

For more: Hawaiian beet webworm returns: <https://plant-pest-advisory.rutgers.edu/ipm-update-09-26-2018/>

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