

Hosts

Fruit trees (mainly apple and pear), many native trees including willow, birch, poplar and maple.

Damage

Buds - Small entry holes in buds, chewed petals and flower parts.

Leaves - Chewed young terminal leaves.

Fruit - Wide irregular holes in small fruit resulting in large russeted scars and deep pits in mature fruit; feeding often distorts pears.



Deep russeted wound from early season feeding on fruitlets. Photo courtesy of Agri-Food Canada



Green fruitworm feeding damage on apple



Green fruitworm on pear

Identification

Larva - Yellowish-green to blue-green body with white to yellow longitudinal stripes and green to tan head; young larvae may have dark spots; mature larvae up to 35 mm long. Very young larvae will hang from a silk thread when disturbed; older larvae curl up when disturbed and walk without looping.

Life History

Green fruitworms overwinter as adults, pupae or eggs, depending on the species. Eggs hatch from before bloom to after petal fall, and larvae may be present from pink to 3-4 weeks after petal fall. Young larvae feed on flower parts and new leaves while older larvae feed mainly on young fruit. Mature larvae drop to the ground and enter the soil where they remain during pupation. Moths emerge in fall or spring, depending on the species. There is one generation per year.

Monitoring

Examine fruit bud and blossom clusters and terminal leaves for larvae in spring. After blossoms open, use limb tap samples to determine the need for control action.



Green fruitworm



Brown fruitworm

Chemical Control

Recommended products and timing for green fruitworm control in apple and pear are:

- Pink – Altacor (chlorantraniliprole)
- Blossom – Dipel, Foray, or Bioprotec (*Bacillus thuringiensis*)
- Petal fall – Dipel, Foray, or Bioprotec (*Bacillus thuringiensis*), Altacor (chlorantraniliprole)

An application of a biological insecticide containing *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Dipel, Foray, or Bioprotec) during bloom or at petal-fall will control green fruitworms and leafrollers and is not toxic to bees or predatory insects and mites. Best spray timing varies with species present and weather conditions.