

Insect Pest Fact Sheet

English Common Name **Codling Moth**

Other Languages

Bichado das pomóideas (Pt) Carpocapsa del melo (It), Carpocapse des pommes et des poires (Fr), La carpocapsa o polilla del manzano (Es)

Other Names

Apple Maggot (In US this is a fly)

Latin Name

Cydia pomonella



Pest Status and Damage

Codling Moth is probably the most important pest of apples worldwide and an important pest of pears, quinces and walnuts. It may also attack other *Prunus* species including peaches.

Damage Symptoms

- The larval or caterpillar exit hole is often visible in the side of the ripe fruit or at the 'eye' end (opposite to the stalk).
- When cut open, the inside of the fruit shows the tunnelling and feeding damage and larval frass
- Damaged fruits tend to ripen and drop early
- The small white, brown-headed caterpillar can sometimes be found near the core.

Life Cycle

This involves one complete and one partial generation per year in southern Britain, though two generations occur in hot summers. The moth survives overwinter as late stage larvae or pupae. First generation adults appear in May to July and fly at dusk on warm evenings. Eggs are laid singly on leaves and the surface of fruit from which caterpillars hatch 7-10 days later, depending on temperature. The larvae then tunnel into the flesh of the fruit, leaving an entrance hole partially blocked by dry frass. Larvae feed on the fruit from within, moulting and growing. The last stage emerges to pupate. Damage may go unnoticed in the earlier part of the season because attack causes the tree to drop young fruit. There are usually 1 to 3 generations depending on location and climate.

Control

Control solutions vary around the world. Please check for permitted products in your area. The short time between egg emergence and larvae entering fruit makes timing very critical and the use of pheromone traps will aid in this respect.

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