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Raspberry: Loopers

Use *Integrated Pest Management (IPM)* for successful plant problem management.

Biology

Loopers are green caterpillars up to about 1 1/2" in length. They may have pale or dark stripes along the body. They are distinguished by their characteristic looping or "measuring-worm" movement. Loopers feed on leaves of many plants, chewing holes in the leaves or feeding along leaf margins. The adult of the alfalfa looper, a species common on raspberry, is a mottled brown moth with silver markings. Wingspan is approximately 1 1/2". The primary damage caused by loopers is the contamination of harvested fruit.

Management Options

Non-Chemical Management

- ~ Hand-pick and destroy any caterpillars or cocoons found on leaves.
- ~ Natural enemies of caterpillars include predacious beetles, parasitic wasps, and birds. Avoid use of broad-spectrum insecticides when possible to conserve beneficial insects.

Select non-chemical management options as your first choice!

Chemical Management

IMPORTANT: Visit *Home and Garden Fact Sheets* for more information on using pesticides

Apply to control loopers when first noticed. Use a spreader-sticker with liquid Bt formulations.

Listed below are examples of pesticides that are legal in Washington. Always read and follow all label directions.

- ~ Bonide Captain Jack's Deadbug Brew R-T-U [Organic]
 - active ingredient: *spinosad* (*spinosyn A+D*)
 - EPA reg no: 4-472
- ~ Bonide Thuricide BT Conc
 - active ingredient: *Bacillus thuringiensis subsp. kurstaki*
 - EPA reg no: 4-226
- ~ Safer Brand Garden Dust RTU [Organic]
 - active ingredient: *Bacillus thuringiensis subsp. kurstaki*
 - EPA reg no: 36488-25-42697
- ~ This list may not include all products registered for this use.

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Images



~ Caption: Cabbage looper
~ Photo by: Unknown



~ Caption: Celery looper pupa
~ Photo by: A.L. Antonelli



~ Caption: Alfalfa looper adult
~ Photo by: OSU slide library