

BE ON THE LOOK OUT FOR ARMYWORMS



WHAT TO LOOK FOR

EGGS:

Females can lay thousands of eggs at a time! Duration of the egg stage can be two to three days during summer months. Typically they are spread through a single layer but can be in multiple layers.

MATURE LARVAE:

Larvae can range from different shades of brown, grey, green. Another distinguishing characteristic is their pale white stripes along their sides. A mature larvae is around 1 1/2 inches long.

PUPA:

After winter larvae will feed for 2-4 weeks and then they will move to the ground and pupate in the soil to develop as moths 2-4 weeks after pupating.

MOTH:

The armyworm moth is tan or grey in color, and forewings are mottled with white underwings. They have a 1 1/2 inch wingspan. Females can lay up to 1,000 eggs!



ARMYWORM LIFECYCLE

"Few armyworms overwinter in Illinois. Most armyworm moths migrate into Illinois from the southern states in April and May. During the day, moths remain hidden in grassy vegetation. Armyworm moths are active during the evening, feeding on nectar, mating, and searching for oviposition sites. Eggs are deposited in rows or clusters on the lower leaves of grasses or at the base of plants. Eggs hatch in 1 to 2 weeks. Newly hatched larvae are pale green and move in a looping motion. Larvae are also active at night, feeding on host plants. During the day, they can be found under plant debris or in the top few inches of the soil. After completing six instars, larvae pupate just below the soil surface. Adults emerge in 1 to 2 weeks. A second generation occurs in late June or early July and a third in late August or early September." ¹



ARMYWORM ACTIVITY

Armyworms are most active at night, where they will begin feeding on host plants. They prefer lush green forage, making alfalfa a popular option. During the day they will hide under plant vegetation or debris or can be found in the top soil. Moths are also active during the night, searching for oviposition sites, feeding and mating. Moths will remain hidden in vegetation during the day.

MANAGEMENT

Armyworms can cause rapid and significant crop damage to crop leaves. Careful inspection of your crop is important to control armyworms before too much destruction is made. Consider an insecticide application to preserve yield and quality, making sure to pay attention to watch the label for harvest restrictions.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US
OR YOUR AG RETAILER:**

WWW.MIDWESTGRASS.COM | [309-837-1820](tel:309-837-1820) | INFO@MIDWESTGRASS.COM

¹ source: "Armyworm." Extension & OUTREACH :: Crop Sciences Department :: College of ACES, University of Illinois, extension.cropsciences.illinois.edu/fieldcrops/insects/armyworm/.