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## EC08-1574 Soybean Insects I

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# Soybean Insects I

UNL Department of Entomology  
Robert Wright, Terry DeVries and Jim Kalisch



1. Bean Leaf Beetle



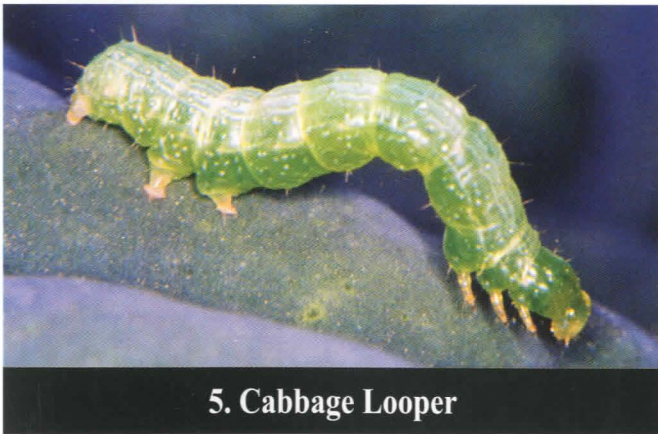
2. Soybean Leafminer



3. Green Cloverworm



4. Alfalfa Caterpillar



5. Cabbage Looper



6. Yellow Woollybear



Larva

Adult

7. Painted Lady



8. Imported Longhorned Weevil



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**Insects****Identification**

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**1. Bean leaf beetle***Cerotoma trifurcata* (Forster)

*Adults:* Vary in color, about 1/5 inch long. All color variations possess a black triangle behind the prothorax. Most common wing color is light yellow with four prominent black spots and outer margins. Less common color variations include reddish wing covers with spots and light yellow wing covers without the four black spots and outer margins. Feeding damage occurs May through September. Injure soybeans by defoliation, pod feeding, and pod clipping. Defoliation is characterized by small round holes on the leaf tissue. May transmit bean pod mottle virus, cowpea mosaic virus, and southern bean mosaic virus.

**2. Soybean leafminer***Odontota horni*

*Adults:* Brick-red beetle with black underside and stripe down the middle of back between the wing covers; about 1/4 inch long. Antennae, head and legs are also black. Present September through May. Adults scrape and chew leaf tissue causing a skeletonized form of defoliation. The larvae mine the leaf mesophyll tissue between the upper and lower leaf epidermis, causing a blotch or blister-like injury. May transmit bean pod mottle virus.

**3. Green cloverworm***Plathypena scabra* (Fabricius)

*Larvae:* Pale green with two white, longitudinal stripes on each side of the body, about 1 inch long at maturity. Possess four pairs of abdominal prolegs. Feeding damage occurs June through September. Injure soybean by defoliation. Consume leaf tissue between the main veins, giving leaves a tattered appearance. Rarely reach damaging population levels.

**4. Alfalfa caterpillar***Colias eurytheme* (Boisduval)

*Larvae:* Velvety green with a white and pink longitudinal stripe on each side of the body; about 1 1/2 inches long at maturity. Head and body covered with many tiny hairs. Possess five pairs of abdominal prolegs. Feeding damage may occur May through September. Injure soybean by defoliation. May consume entire leaves, including the mid-rib.

**5. Cabbage looper / Soybean looper***Trichoplusia ni* (Hübner) /  
*Pseudoplusia includens* (Walker)

*Larvae:* Light to dark green with light longitudinal stripes, one along each side of the body and two across the back; about 1.4 inches long at maturity. Move about in a "looping" fashion. Possess two pairs of abdominal legs and one pair of anal legs. These two species are distinguished by microscopic examination of the inside surface of the mandibles. Feeding damage occurs July through September. Injure soybean by defoliation, primarily the lower portions of the canopy. First and second instars feed on the undersides of leaves causing a "window-pane" effect. Later stages consume irregular areas of leaf tissue, leaving the larger lateral veins intact. Severely defoliated soybeans have a "lacelike" appearance.

**6. Yellow woollybear***Spilosoma virginica* (Fabricius)

*Larvae:* Body color varies from pale yellow to black. Body covered with dense, soft hairs of variable length; about 2 inches long at maturity. Feeding damage occurs May through September. Injure soybean by defoliation; mostly within the upper one-third of the canopy.

**7. Painted lady***Vanessa cardui* (Linnaeus)

*Adults:* Brown with red and orange mottling and black and white spots; about a 2 1/2-inch wingspan. Hind wings have four eyespots in a row on the trailing edge. Do not injure soybean.  
*Larvae:* Brown to black with a yellow stripe along each side of the body; about 1 1/4 inches long at maturity. The body is covered with spiny hairs giving it a prickly appearance. Feeding damage occurs May through September. Injure soybean by defoliation. Caterpillars bind together leaflets with webbing, usually in the upper canopy. They live within the webbing, feeding on the leaflets, and deposit large amounts of black feces.

**8. Imported longhorned weevil***Calomycterus setarius* (Roelofs)

*Adults:* Mottled gray, pear-shaped body with 20 shallow grooves extending the length of the hairy wing covers; about 1/4 inch long. Antennae are half the length of the body and elbowed near the middle. Flightless. Feeding damage occurs June through September. Injure soybean by consuming leaf tissue and smaller veins, leaving a ragged leaf bordered with a scalloped edge.

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