



# Leaf miner

## What is a leaf miner?

Leafminer adults are small, black and yellow flies.

Eggs are laid in leaves and larvae feed between leaf surfaces, creating a meandering track or "mine." At high population levels, entire leaves may be covered with mines. Mature larvae leave the mines, dropping to the ground as pupae. The life cycle takes only 2 weeks in warm weather; there are seven to ten generations a year.



Figure 1. Leaf miner fly

## Damage

Leaf miner feeding results in serpentine mines (i.e., slender, white, winding trails); heavily mined leaflets have large whitish blotches.



Figure 2. Leaf miner damage, larva and pupa

## Control

1. Identify the stages of the insect by using hand lens.
2. Adult leaf miner flies generally are seen on top the leaf. Female lays eggs inside leaf. Pupae (yellow in color) occur prior to adult emerging.
3. Scouting\* the hoop house on a twice weekly basis is extremely important. Make sure screens are in place so leaf miners cannot enter production area.
4. Use spray program or introduce biological control when seeing active adults.
5. A monitoring technique for leaf miners is to place outside the hoop house plastic trays about 12 by 15 inches in size beneath plants at several randomly chosen places in the field. Mature larvae that drop from foliage accumulate on the trays and pupate there, providing a measure of leaf miner activity and a means to control future outbreaks.

## Sanitation

Remove all plant debris and weeds from the hoop house. Begin cleanup immediately following harvest and dispose of debris as far as possible from the growing area. Totally cover or bury debris to reduce the dispersal of any emerging leaf miner flies.

**\*scouting means routinely walking the hoop house and looking at plants**

<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r783300911.html#DAMAGE>

For more information visit: <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/>

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