

Mid-Atlantic Guide to the

Insect Pests and Beneficials of Corn, Soybean, and Small Grains



and Small Grains



VIRGINIA IPM Integrated Pest Management

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE

Mid-Atlantic Guide to Insect Pests and Beneficials of Corn, Soybean, and Small Grains

• Clear, full-color high-resolution photographs

• 40 insect pests and 10 beneficial species included

• Grouped by commodity: corn, soybean, and small grains

• Specific to Mid-Atlantic region

• Keys for easy separation of most commonly misidentified species

• Pocket size - 4" x 6"

• Coil bound and laminated



**Lepidoptera larvae** **KEY**

**Lepidoptera Larvae with 4 pair of prolegs.**

**True armyworm**  
Orange or brown stripes edged with white along sides with dark diagonal bands at the top of each abdominal proleg; head mottled with two dark stripes; commonly found in spring/early summer attacking grasses or grains.

**Bigeeyed bug**

**Nymph**  
Slightly smaller than adults; predominantly silver-gray with black markings.

**Adult**  
Oval, somewhat flattened, about 4 mm long, usually brownish or yellowish, with a wide head and prominent bulging, widely-spaced eyes.

**Parasitized aphids**

Aphids can be parasitized by small wasps that develop inside the aphid body and exit leaving a hollow brown outer shell called a mummy.

**Annual white grub** **CORN**

**Larva**  
There are several scarab species (Japanese beetle, June beetle, oriental beetle) that have similar-looking larvae called white grubs. They are typically cream-colored with a brown head and hold their body in a C-shape. They feed on germinating corn seed and newly developing roots. Damage is usually localized within fields.

**Western corn rootworm**

**Larva**  
Cream-colored with dark brown head and rear end; feed on corn roots.

**Adult**  
Yellow in color with three black stripes running down the length of the wing covers; feed on silks and tassels.

**Saltmarsh and yellow woollybear caterpillars** **SOYBEAN**

**Saltmarsh caterpillar**  
Fuzzy looking; pale yellow to red to nearly black. Look very similar to the yellow woollybear caterpillar. Both feed on leaves, causing damage similar to other caterpillars.

**Yellow woollybear caterpillar**  
Color varies from pale yellow to red to black.

**Silver spotted skipper**

**Larva**  
Greenish-yellow with dark brownish-red head and large, round, bright orange eye spots; young larvae construct a characteristic "hidded leaf" nest. They feed on leaves at night.

**Adult**  
Large silver spot on undersides of hind wings.

**Cereal leaf beetle** **small grains**

**Eggs**  
Orange colored; laid in groups of 1-3 end-to-end on tops of leaves often along midveins.

**Larva**  
Most damage is done by larvae feeding on the leaf surface, causing a frosted appearance to heavily damaged fields. They are yellow but usually covered with a brown or black coating of fecal material.

**Adult**  
Metallic blue-black head and wing covers; area behind head is red.

**Hessian fly** **small grains**

**Larvae**  
Red upon hatching but turn white after 4-5 days. Larvae extract juices from between leaf sheaths and stems. Fall feeding causes plant yellowing and death; spring feeding causes stunting and lodging of new tillers.

**Pupae**  
Red to dark brown spindle-shaped "flax seed". Usually found below the soil (single) or in clusters near or burrowed into plant crowns.