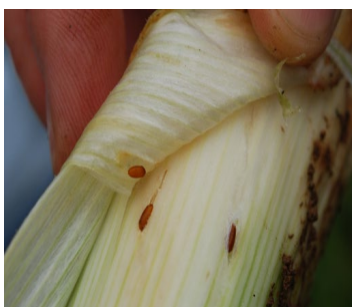
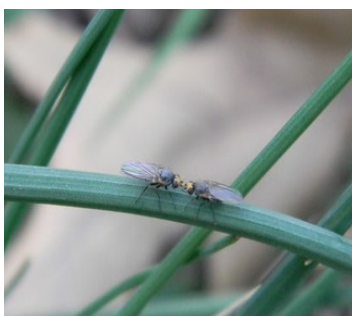


Onion Leaf Miner



Onion leaf miner larvae.



Onion leaf miner adults.

What Is It?

The onion leaf miner (*Phytomyza gymnostoma*; also known as the allium leaf miner) is a fly native to Europe that attacks plants in the *Allium* genus, which includes onions, garlic, leeks, chives, and more. The larvae chew the leaf tissue in a long trail down the plant. At the end of the trail, they turn into their overwintering form. This next life cycle stage is a dark brown, oblong shape that is less than one-quarter inch long. Adults emerge next and will puncture holes in a plant to feed on the sap that comes out. Infested plants curl and become distorted.

Is It Here Yet?

No. But it is in North America, having been found in Pennsylvania in 2015.

Why Should I Care?

The onion leaf miner's feeding habits increase the risk of infections in a plant and make the plant unsightly. This results in financial losses for farmers.

What Are Its Characteristics?

- Adults have yellow heads, knees, and sides of abdomens; otherwise mostly dark gray, just more than 1/10 inch long.
- Pupae are red-brown, slightly longer than adults.
- Larvae are white to yellow, up to about 1/3 inch long.
- Eggs are white, about 1/50 inch long, found on leaves.
- Adult feeding holes are in rows, and milky white sap will leak out.



How Do I Distinguish It From Native Species?

While adults can be distinctive, the damage is most notable. Other fly maggots are pests of onions but are larger in size. The combination of damage and pupae are symptoms of concern and should be sent for proper diagnosis. Submit physical samples to your local Washington State University Cooperative Extension office.



Adult feeding holes are filled with milky sap.

How Can We Stop It?

Before transporting or importing species in the *Allium* genus, inspect the plants for signs of leaf miners or damage. Because the onion leaf miner isn't in Washington yet, preventing its spread is key.

What Should I Do If I Find One?

Report immediately via the WA Invasives mobile app or reporting web form at <https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/report-a-sighting/>.

All photos are courtesy of Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org.