

Celery leaf tier are present

**By Zsofia Szendrei
Vegetable Entomologist, MSU**

Over the last month growers, consultants, and agronomists have called in to report large numbers of the celery leaf tier moth all over the state. They noticed the moths rising up in great numbers as they move through fields. The little moths are "everywhere", since the larvae of the celery leaf tier attack many species of cultivated flowers, weeds, and vegetables including beets, spinach, beans, and celery. This insect is not a pest of soybeans or corn. Another generation will occur in fall, closer to harvest. As a larva this insect is a small, greenish-yellow $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long caterpillar that lives in the upper leaves of plants. It gets its name from rolling and then tying together the leaves with silk in order to make a protective shelter. Small larvae feed on leaves, but as they grow, they move to the upper portions of the petiole. Adult celery leaf tier resembles European corn borer on first look, except that it is smaller and has a "snout" mouthpart appearance. Photos can be viewed at this website: <http://bugguide.net/node/view/9721/bgimage>. Its wingspan is about 0.75 inch compared to the European corn borer's 1 to 1.25 inch wingspan.

Petiole damage looks like cutworm or looper damage with circular depressions and hollowed out tissue. Tied leaves, webbing and the presence of the larvae are contaminants at harvest. Small larvae can be controlled with Bt products, but larger larvae may be more difficult to control. Because this pest is sporadic (meaning that it only occurs in large numbers in some years and not in others), there is no treatment threshold developed specifically for Michigan. According to a recommendation from Virginia Tech, the following treatments threshold is recommended: at five different locations in a field inspect 20 plants for larvae on a weekly basis. Treatment is warranted if there are more than 4 weeks before harvest and there are 2 or more larvae per 100 plants. (<http://www.idlab.entom.vt.edu/IDLab/vegpests/vegfs/celeryleafier.html>)

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