

## FALL ARMYWORMS: Facts and Notes | Control | Prevention

### Facts and Notes

Armyworm adult moth eggs are circular, milky white, placed in rows of 200, and coated with "furry" scales. Larvae have six instars. Mature larvae are up to 45mm in length. They are brown with white lateral lines and spine-covered dark dots. The reddish-brown head features an upside-down "Y" on the face. Green larvae with pale markings exist. Reddish-brown, glossy pupae live in soil-silk cocoons.

Adult moths have grayish forewings with triangle-shaped markings in the middle and tip. Hindwings are brown-margined milky white. 32–40mm wingspan. Young larvae eat leaf epidermis. They chew holes and eat leaves from the margins as they mature. Defoliated plants seem ragged. Larvae eat growing tips and fruiting bodies.

### Fall armyworm found in KAUST



Fall armyworm Larva  
(*Spodoptera frugiperda*)



Fall armyworm Adult  
(*Spodoptera frugiperda*)



Spider Plant (*Chlorophytum capense*) infested by armyworms.

### Pest Control procedures in managing pests

1. Look for spots where leaves have been chewed up and look underneath them. You can also search for cottony masses (the armyworm eggs) on the undersides of leaves.
2. IPM-guided essential control mainly:
  - **Cultural Control** - Keep the garden free of plant debris, as this is where they tend to lurk in between feedings. If the area surrounding the plants is kept clean and free of trash and plant debris, the plants will be less susceptible to infestation.
  - **Mechanical Control** – Set pheromone traps. It works by using chemicals to mimic the scent of a female moth to attract male moths. The male moths are tricked and get stuck on the trap's sticky surface. In the early phases of an infestation, a soap-and-water spray can help control the spread of armyworms.
  - **Chemical Control** – If alternative pest control methods fail, apply insecticides in a highly diluted mixture to the affected area in accordance with the instructions provided by the manufacturer, such as Decis 100 EC (*Deltamethrin 10% EC*).
3. Monitor the plants condition after the treatment. It is recommended to keep record for future evaluation.

### What you can do to prevent Fall Armyworms in your garden

- Maintain good sanitary conditions, remove any garbage and debris from your backyards and gardens.
- Cooperate with the service provider during treatment activities by keeping yourself and your pets in a safe place.
- Report sightings or request assistance by contacting the Horticulture and Pest Control Department or via C&C Call Center by calling 959 from any landline."