IMPORTED CABBAGE MOTH

Created by Global Garden Refugee Training Farm, Chicago Ill.

Summary

This is a short (9 slides) lesson on how and why to identify imported cabbageworms, with two control methods suggested for organic growers.

Who made this guide?

This teaching resource was developed by the Global Garden Refugee Training Farm and enhanced in collaboration with the Institute for Social and Economic Development (ISED). From 2015-2017, ISED partnered with refugee farmer training programs throughout the country to support the design of new and shareable teaching resources for culturally and linguistically diverse farmers. To access the whole list of newly developed teaching resources for refugee farmer training program, follow this link. For more in-depth explanations of the teaching approaches and activities used in these materials, you can refer to this handbook.

USDA NIFA
United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Global Garden
Refugee Training Farm

ISED SOLUTIONS
INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Audience (TA Or Tot)	TA (Technical Assistance for farmers)
Language and Literacy Level	All
Farmer Experience	Beginner to advanced
Pre-Requisites	May require review of insect life cycles
Region or Climate	Midwest and Northeastern United States
Program Structure	Communal urban farm with additional family plots
Season	Before or during start of growing season is best, but can be covered any time
Time	10 – 20 minutes
Staff and Interpreters	One instructor, interpreters as needed
Additional Supplies Needed	PowerPoint and projector for the classroom. Pre-printed/laminated slides for in-field instruction or review. Sample of floating row cover if is not already familiar to students.
Background Material	None

TEACHING MATERIALS INCLUDED

1. A brief slide show showing life stages, potential damage, affected crops, and two control options

CORE SKILLS IN THIS LESSON

- Insect pest identification
- Pest life cycle
- Use of row covers

SUGGESTED TEACHING METHODS

Tell me about this picture

- Using the photos of pests in the slideshow (either causing damage or illustrating the life-cycle), you can ask farmers: "What is happening here in this picture?" "What is this and why does the plant look like this?" "What are the worms doing?" Etc.

Realia

- This strategy simply suggests that if you are in season, the best way to teach about this pest problem is to show live specimens (at any stage of the life cycle) and to show application of control methods in the actual field. Live (or preserved) specimens can be collected and brought into the classroom to show actual size of this pest. In the field, imported cabbage moths are frequent flyers and can be easily observed on the wing. Also in the field, farmers can be shown the variation in size between newly hatched and older caterpillars. The caterpillars' tendency to take on the exact shade of green (or purple) of the host plant can also be pointed out.

Reflection questions

- You can ask farmers: "Have you dealt with this pest in the past?" "What might you do differently after this lesson?" "Are there any new control methods you would like to try?"

Sorting, categorizing and matching

- Which crops are affected by the imported cabbage worm? Identify crops by picture or name. Ask farmers to put pictures of the different stages of the life cycle in the correct order.

TEACHING TIPS AND VARIATIONS

- This can be combined with presentations on other pests for a more extensive pest management lesson. Farmers can learn to associate different control methods with different kinds of pests and be able to group pests in terms of what vegetables they affect, and which control methods you can use on them.
- Start the conversation with some questions to get farmers engaged. Ask the farmers if they have seen cabbage moths—either the moths flying around or the caterpillars feeding on crop leaves. Have they seen this kind of damage on their crops?

Note: Imported cabbage moths are a minor pest at our farm. We have had to use floating row covers to exclude egg-laying moths only a couple of times.