



Plum Fruit Moth

Grapholita funebrana

Also known as the red plum maggot and the plum fruit maggot, this insect can develop on many wild and cultivated stone fruits as well as other plants in the Rosaceae family. It is currently found in Europe, the Middle East, and northern Asia where it causes crop and plant losses ranging from 25 to 100 percent.



R.Coutin



R.Coutin

Life Cycle and Characteristics

Moths usually begin to appear in April or May and produce one to three generations a year depending on the climate. Eggs are laid beginning in May and hatch in 5 to 9 days. Larvae then chew into the fruit where they remain and feed for 15 to 17 days before emerging to pupate under bark or in the soil.

Adult moths have a wingspan of 11-15mm, a dark brown forewing, and a grey and brown hind wing. Its appearance is similar to the common Oriental peach moth.

Information Sources

New Pest Response Guidelines: Plum Fruit Moth. 2012. http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/emergency/downloads/nprg-cfunebranapra.pdf

Plum Fruit Moth. 2011. http://caps.ceris.purdue.edu/webfm_send/1082

Image Source

Plum Fruit Moth. 2011. http://caps.ceris.purdue.edu/webfm_send/1082

Damage

Larval feeding inside the fruit causes fluid to exude from the entrance hole as well as a buildup of frass which can render the fruit unmarketable. The larvae also cause discoloration and premature fruit drop.