



Silver-Y Moth

Autographa gamma

This pest is distributed throughout Europe and eastward to China. It also occurs in some areas of North Africa. If able to establish in the United States, the consequences are high for our agricultural and natural ecosystems. California and the southern states have the highest risk of devastation due to food availability and weather conditions. Hosts crops include corn, potatoes, spinach, cabbage, pepper & other agricultural crops



Side view of adult moth showing "Y" characteristic on wing. Photo by Philip Precey



Silver Y (*Autographa gamma*) 12mm caterpillar © Steve Ogden

Description:

The eggs of the Silver-Y moth are yellowish-white turning to yellowish-orange later in development and can be found in bunches or in singles on the underside of leaves. During the larval stage, the shade of green can vary from light or pale green to a darker green with a yellow to white and black stripe that follows the caterpillar lengthwise. Larvae are active at night and press up against the underside of leaves during the day unless disturbed, in which they will drop off of the plant. When ready to pupate, larvae spin a translucent, whitish cocoon among plant foliage closer to the bottom of the host plant.

Damage:

Younger Silver-Y moth larvae skeletonize older leaves of host plants which give the leaves a brownish appearance, leaving the plants stressed and disturbing vegetable growth. Older larvae devour the whole leaf, which makes the host plant trying to produce more leaves than vegetables. This pest feeds on a variety of plants, especially agricultural crops, and can be potentially imported through supermarkets and grocery stores. The larvae are primary pests of corn, along with cereals, grasses, *Brassica* spp., and other vegetables, including legumes.

Photos:

Ogden, Steve. Wildlife Insight. *Silver Y Moth, [Autographa gamma](http://www.wildlifeinsight.com/Insight/?page_id=8840)*. April 2015. http://www.wildlifeinsight.com/Insight/?page_id=8840.

Precey, Philip. The Wildlife Trusts. *Silver Y: [Autographa gamma](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/species/silver-y)*. Side view of moth showing "Y" characteristic on wing. April 2015.

<http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/species/silver-y>

Information: CAPS. *Arthropods: Primary Pests of Corn (Full Pest Datasheet): [Autographa gamma](https://caps.ceris.purdue.edu/webfm_send/460)*. Accessed April 2015.

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