



Green Oak Tortrix

Tortrix viridana

Green Oak Tortrix moths are native to Europe and Eurasia and have not been found in the United States. They are rated as a high risk pest although the potential for establishment is rated as moderate at this time. The Green Oak Tortrix emerges with other defoliators which can cause added stress to North American forests. Trees highly susceptible to this pest are oak species.



Adult Green Oak Tortrix. Photo taken by Pest Tracker



Vintage lithograph of Green Oak Tortrix by Cabinet of Treasures

Description:

Egg masses are deposited on leaf scars, bark, or near buds on small shoots in a glossy, sticky substance. Females can lay between 50-60 eggs with typically one generation per year. The pale yellow eggs turn into an orange-brown color during egg development. The eggs hatch early in the following spring when the temperature stays a consistent 50°F. The pale green larvae then eat the newly grown leaves of the host plant. The pupation stage lasts 2-3 weeks in rolled up leaves which are spun together with silk.

Damage:

The Green Oak Tortrix is considered a significant pest to oaks. In its native habitat, there are periodic outbreaks which cause severe oak defoliation and decline. The larvae feed on the tender bark, foliage, buds, flowers, and new shoots which can cause a reduction in flowering and fruiting. These pests will also feed on other shade trees, ornamentals, and shrubs.



Larva from spinning between oak leaves - Purdis Heath, Suffolk (8.v.2011) © A Prichard

Pictures: Pest Tracker. Accessed April 2015. <http://pest.ceris.purdue.edu/pest.php?code=ITBUEWA>
Cabinet of Treasures. Accessed April 2015. <https://www.etsy.com/listing/66482118/1956-tortrix-moths-european-oak?ref=market>
The Moths of Suffolk. 1033 *Tortrix viridana*, Green Oak Tortrix, (Linnaeus, 1758). Larva from spinning between oak leaves - Purdis Heath, Suffolk (8.v.2011) © A Prichard. <http://www.suffolkmoths.org.uk/cgi-bin/mos/account.cgi?code=1033>.
Information: CAPS. *Tortrix viridana*. Arthropod Pests. December 2009. March 2015. https://caps.ceris.purdue.edu/webfm_send/603

This fact sheet was made possible, in part, by a Cooperative Agreement from the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service