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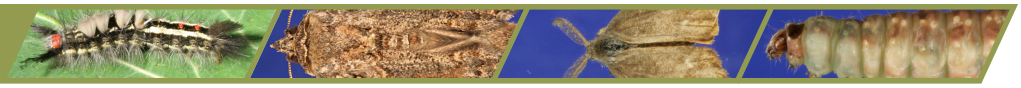
Insect Production Services

http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/forests/research-centres/glfc/13467

version 2.1



Care Instructions for the Cabbage Looper (*Tricoplusia ni*)

Cabbage looper are shipped during the egg stage. Eggs are attached to a piece of gauze. Eggs may hatch during transit. Upon receipt of the eggs, place them into cups of artificial diet and turn the rearing cups upside down so that the diet is at the top because the tiny larvae will move up towards the light to find food. Breathable trays (e.g., cardboard) should be used to hold the cups of larvae. Maintain the cups at 27ºC, 60% relative humidity and a 16h:8h light:dark cycle. Transfer the larvae to fresh food one week after initial set-up on diet. Reduce the larval rearing density to 3 per cup when using our 3/4oz (22ml) cups of prepared artificial diet. Alternatively, natural foods (e.g., cabbage or any other crucifer vegetable) may be used for feeding although it is not recommended because it is a potential source of microbial pathogens that may infect these insects. Remove uneaten foliage and clean rearing chambers regularly to minimize the accumulation of frass. As larvae become larger, the rearing density must be reduced because they become cannibalistic. Larvae will start to pupate about 14 days after egg hatch and may be removed from the diet. Pupae should be maintained in a vented container at 24ºC, 60% relative humidity and a 16h:8h light:dark cycle. Adults will emerge 6-8 days after pupation (i.e., 20-22 days after egg hatch) and survive longest when fed a sugar-honey solution.

[a] Insects and prepared artificial diets may be purchased at: http://www.insect.glfc.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca