

Apple Leaf Miner

The apple leaf miner is a fairly common pest, frequently found on apples and sometimes cherries and other fruit stocks. The damage caused by this pest is rarely of significant importance.



DAMAGE:

The adult moth deposits eggs singly in the underside of the leaf in May. After hatching out, each larvae commences to mine towards the upper surface of the leaf, feeding as they go pupating either inside the leaf or dropping out onto the soil to pupate underground. A single mine is usually very long, widening gradually throughout its length. The tissue surrounding the mines become discoloured. If several mines are present, an infested leaf may eventually shrivel up and die. There are usually three generations each year.

CONTROL:

Non Chemical Control

Leaf miners mainly cause cosmetic damage to leaves, which is often more noticeable towards the end of summer. They do not affect the health of the tree or the crop. With small infestations you can remove and destroy leaves in order to prevent a secondary generation from appearing. During winter it is also good practice to hoe around the trees to destroy any over wintering pupae.

Companion planting

It is said that planting Aquilegia close to apple trees will attract leaf miners and lure them away.

Chemical Control

There are no suitable pesticides available to home gardeners for treatment against leaf miners.

USE CHEMICALS SAFELY: ALWAYS READ THE LABEL

When using chemicals it is most important to follow the manufacturer's instructions precisely. Only use on the fruits that are listed on the manufacturer's label. An accurate weighing machine and measuring cylinder should be obtained. Chemicals can be wasted by making concentrations unnecessarily strong or by making them too weak and ineffective. Furthermore, if chemicals are too strong they may cause damage to the foliage.