

## Pear Leaf Curling Midge



The pear leaf midge is a common pest of pear trees. Adults appear from mid-April onwards, but are most numerous in August and September. The larvae are orange at first but as they mature they turn white and grow to approximately 2mm. They can be found within the tightly rolled pear leaves. There are usually three generations in one season. Pear leaf curling midge mainly attacks young trees and is of less concern on mature trees.

### **DAMAGE:**

The pear leafcurling midge overwinters as a pupa in the soil, the adults emerge around bloom time and lay their eggs within the rolled margins of young pear leaves. These hatch within a few days and the larvae then feed on the leaves, preventing the leaf margins from unrolling. Leaves are badly distorted in severe attacks and their margins remain tightly rolled. The foliage turns red and finally blackens and dies.

The damage caused by the pear leaf midge can easily be confused with frost damage which is very common during the spring. It is therefore important to identify the larvae itself, before taking action.

### **CONTROL:**

There are no effective insecticides approved for use by home gardeners, but when the attack is slight, all infected leaves should be removed and burned as soon as the pest is identified.