

DBM-ENEMY™

Diamondback Moth
(Plutella xylostella)



Pest Details

Egg: Females deposit tiny, yellowish eggs (approximately 0.3–0.5 mm long) singly or in small clusters on the underside of crucifer leaves. At optimal temperatures (20–25 °C), eggs hatch in 3–5 days, though cooler conditions can extend incubation to 6–7 days.

Larvae: Newly hatched caterpillars measure about 0.5 mm and are pale green with a forked tail. Over four instars spanning 10–16 days, they feed externally—first creating “windowpane” patches by eating tissue between veins, then skeletonizing foliage and occasionally boring into buds or young seed pods. By the final instar, larvae reach 5–6 mm in length and display more pronounced green coloration.

Pupae: Mature larvae attach themselves by silk to leaf surfaces or stems and form loose, silken cocoons. Pupae are about 4–6 mm long, initially pale yellowish-green before turning light brown. The pupal stage lasts 4–7 days at 20–25 °C, with cooler temperatures prolonging development.

Adult: Adults are slender moths with a body length of 6–8 mm and a wingspan of 12–15 mm. Forewings are slate gray to brown, marked by a series of pale wavy lines that overlap to form a faint diamond pattern when at rest. Hindwings are lighter gray with fringed margins. Nocturnal and crepuscular in activity, adults live 10–14 days, mating soon after emergence and with females laying up to 200–300 eggs over their lifespan.

Host: Cabbage, kale, broccoli, cauliflower, radish.

Crop symptoms

- Irregular translucent patches appear on young leaves where larvae scrape away the surface tissue.
- Leaves become reduced to a network of veins after caterpillars consume the softer leaf tissue.
- Tiny dark frass pellets scatter along leaf undersides and stems, marking where feeding is active.
- Clusters of pale green, fork-tailed caterpillars gather beneath leaves and around growing points.
- Fine silken mats form under leaves or on stems as late-instar larvae prepare to pupate.

Mode of Action:
Active Components:

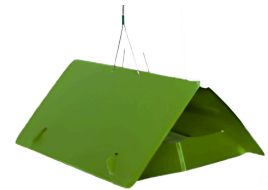
Active Life:
Shelf Life:

Sex Pheromone attractant
(Z)-11-hexadecenal
(Z)-11-hexadecenyl acetate
8 weeks
2 years under recommended storage

Recommended Traps



Water Trap



Delta Trap

Trap Positioning

Delta Traps: Secure delta traps to a stable support structure at approximately 1 meter (about 3.3 feet) above ground level. Ensure they are not positioned more than 2 feet above the crop canopy to optimize pest attraction.

Water Traps: Place water traps either directly on the ground or elevate them to a height between 1 and 2 feet above ground level. Position them away from overhanging vegetation to prevent interference and maintain trap effectiveness.

Trap Density

4 - 5 traps per hectare for monitoring.
5-10 traps per hectare for mass trapping.

Trap Maintenance

Inspect the traps on a regular basis. For delta traps, replace the sticky cards once they become coated with dust or crowded with trapped insects. Replace the pheromone dispensers every 8 weeks to achieve optimum results.

Storage

Keep refrigerated at 4°C for a shelf life of 18 months or freeze for an extended life of 24 months. Keep out of reach of children.