

## Eurasian Hemp Moth/Hemp Borer

Caterpillars of the **Eurasian hemp moth** (*Grapholita delineana*) feed on the upper canopy and terminal growth of plants. They may develop on leaves, flowers and developing seeds, but also bore into petioles and stems. This latter habit leads to them sometimes being known as **hemp borer**. The caterpillars are quite small, reaching a maximum size of about 6-8 mm, and have orange coloration. (Note: This is much smaller than the other common stalk boring caterpillar that can occur in hemp, **European corn borer**, which is light brown or cream colored and is much larger in size.)



**Late stage larva of the Eurasian hemp moth (hemp borer) in stem of hemp.**



**Adults of the Eurasian hemp moth.**

The stage that survives through winter is a full-grown larva that will pupate the following spring. Outdoors this may occur within a folds of leaves and seed heads or within stalks and stems debris left in fields. However, this insect can also be brought indoors on seed heads and buds in storage or in stems cut from fields in late season used for propagation.

Pupation may occur within stems, on leaves or amongst seed heads. Adults will emerge in late spring. Larvae that hatch from eggs of these moths will initially feed on the leaves, producing a minor skeletonizing leaf

damage. They later bore into petioles and stems, where they complete development and pupate. A second generation of moths will emerge in midsummer.

The caterpillars from this second generation may cause more extensive injuries, feeding on terminal growth including flowers and developing seeds. These injuries can continue in storage after harvest. Some larvae will tunnel into stems, which can result in stem breakage.

The Eurasian hemp moth does have potential to be a significant insect pest of this crop, particularly of crops grown for pharmaceutical purposes (e.g., CBD) and seed. It also will likely become more commonly encountered in the crop as hemp cultivation expands.

Lepidoptera: Tortricidae



**Pupa of a Eurasian hemp moth**