

HEALTHY COLORADO SCHOOLS



MILLER MOTHS ARE MIGRATING

The miller moths have begun their annual migration. Many schools and homeowners are seeing miller moths in buildings. In much of the Rocky Mountain west, the common miller moth is the adult stage of the army cutworm, *Euxoa auxiliaris*. These moths have a wingspan of 1 ½ to 2 inches, are gray or light brown, and have a kidney-shaped marking on the forewing. The army cutworm (caterpillar stage) feeds on crops and garden plants in winter and early spring. The moth (adult stage) feeds on nectar and is making its annual migration from the plains to the mountains now; it usually lasts six to eight weeks. If you live close to the mountains, these moths may have migrated over a hundred miles en route to summer feeding sites.

Remember that the miller moth is primarily a nuisance. They don't feed or lay eggs in homes or buildings. They don't feed on any household furnishings or food. They will eventually find a way outdoors or die without reproducing.

Keep the moths from getting indoors by sealing openings around windows and doors and reducing lighting inside and out. The best way to remove the moths once they are in a building is to swat or vacuum them. Insecticides are not recommended. In addition, new moths migrating into the area nightly will rapidly replace any moths killed.

Keep Colorado schools pest free