

Beet Webworm

The **beet webworm** (*Loxostege sticticalis*) is a caterpillar that reaches moderately large size when full grown (ca. $\frac{3}{4}$ inch). It is generally green marked with striping and white spots that have a black center. The caterpillars will typically be found feeding amongst emerging leaves and around buds, usually within some loose silken webbing that produces a shelter for the insect.

Adults emerge in June and lay eggs, typically in a small cluster on the leaf underside. Upon egg hatch, the larvae move to feed on the plant. First stage larvae feed on the leaf surface, producing minor skeletonizing. Later stages, will cause more generalized leaf chewing and produce the visible webbing. When mature, larvae drop to the soil and pupate.

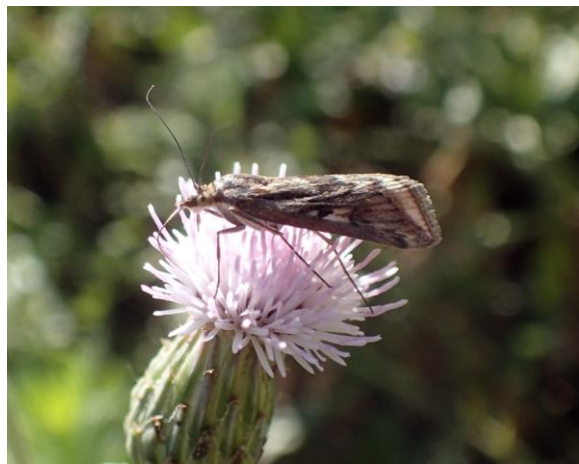
Adults emerge in about a two weeks and produce a second generation. From July into September all stages of beet webworm may be present as generations overlap.

Damage to hemp by this insect is likely to be minimal and insignificant. Other plants are more favored hosts, notably several common weeds such as lambsquarters, pigweed and Russianthistle. The small amounts of leaf chewing beet webworm does produce on hemp can be expected to be fully tolerated by the plants. Numerous natural enemies that may feed on beet webworm are also common in most hemp fields.

Lepidoptera: Crambidae



Beet webworm larvae collected from hemp



Adult of the beet webworm.