

Fact sheet

Exotic leaf rollers

What are Exotic leaf rollers?

Exotic leaf rollers include Green headed leaf rollers (GHLR, *Planotortrix* sp.), Oblique-banded leaf rollers (OBLR, *Choristoneura rosaceana*) and Brown headed leaf rollers (BHLR, *Ctenopseustis obliquana*).

What do they look like?

OBLR adults have reddish-brown forewings with strong diagonal bands and a semicircular spot at the wing edge. The moths are 16-30 mm in length, with the females larger than males. Larvae are yellowish-green (though this may vary) with light brown heads.

BHLR adults typically 8-12 mm in length with walnut brown forewings (though this may vary). Both sexes have a dark oblique mark halfway down the edge of each forewing. Males also have a transverse stripe about one-third the distance from head to wingtip. Larvae are green with a black head (first instar) that becomes brown in later instars with possible red stripes on the head in the final instar.

GHLR moths are 7-14 mm in length with forewings darker than hindwings. Male adults have a fan of large scales at the back end of the body. Females often have dark brown, variable zig-zag markings and a dark brown spot on the forewings. At rest the forewings overlap each other to form a bell-shaped outline. Early instar larvae have light green bodies and brown heads that become greener in later instars.

What can they be confused with?

Leaf rolling symptoms on trees are very difficult to distinguish from damage by non-exotic leaf rollers such as the Light brown apple moth.



Oblique-banded leaf roller moths are reddish brown in colour

Cheryl Moorehead, Bugwood.org



Oblique-banded leaf roller larvae are yellowish with light brown heads

USDA Forest Service - Region 8 Archive, Bugwood.org



Adult Green headed leaf roller moths are 7-14mm in length

Donald Hobart, Atlas of Living Australia



What should I look for?

Larvae damage the leaves, fruit and buds. Rolled leaves are the most obvious symptom of leaf roller presence as the larvae feed in webbed terminals and rolled leaves. Fruit may be scarred and ultimately the larvae bore holes in cherries. Failure of current pesticide regimes to control leaf rollers may also suggest the presence of exotic leaf rollers.

How do they spread?

GHLR and BHLR adults can spread locally by flying, but the main means of long distance dispersal is through larvae infested leaves or fruit. OBLR are most likely to be transported as hibernating larvae on dormant nursery stock.

Where is it now?

OBLR are present in North America whilst GHLR and BHLR are only found in New Zealand.

How can I protect my orchard from Exotic leafminers?

Source planting material and orchard inputs only from 'clean', accredited suppliers. Check your orchard frequently for the presence of new pests and unusual symptoms. Make sure you are familiar with common cherry pests so you can tell if you see something different.

If you see anything unusual, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline

**EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE
1800 084 881**

For more information visit www.planthealthaustralia.com.au

