

## Plum fruit moth

### What is the Plum fruit moth?

The Plum fruit moth (PFM, *Cydia funebrana*), also known as red plum maggot and plum fruit maggot, is a serious pest of summerfruit, causing fruit losses of up to 50% in Europe.

### What does it look like?

Adults have a wingspan of 13-15 mm. The triangular forewings are dark grey/brown with a paler area near the apex, which bears four short black dashes. The underside of the body and legs is grey, and hind wings are a brown/grey colour.

Eggs (0.6 x 0.7 mm, slightly elliptical) are laid singly and are initially translucent but later become yellow. Fully-grown larvae are 10-12 mm long with a red/pink back and a dark head, and are tapered at both ends. Pupae are 6-6.5 mm long and light brown.

### What can it be confused with?

PFM may be easily confused with another moth pest, *Cydia molesta*, but PFM is larger than its relative. The fruit drop caused by PFM infestation may be mistaken for the physiological drop of unfertilised fruit.

### What should I look for?

The entrance holes from young larvae are not easily spotted on the fruit, but sticky gum exuding from the holes may be visible. The most noticeable symptom in young fruit is a change in colour from green to violet, which is typically followed by fruit drop. In more mature fruit, infestation with larvae leads to premature ripening.



Larvae have red/pink backs and dark heads

Photo: Magnus Gammelgaard, www.plant-diseases.com



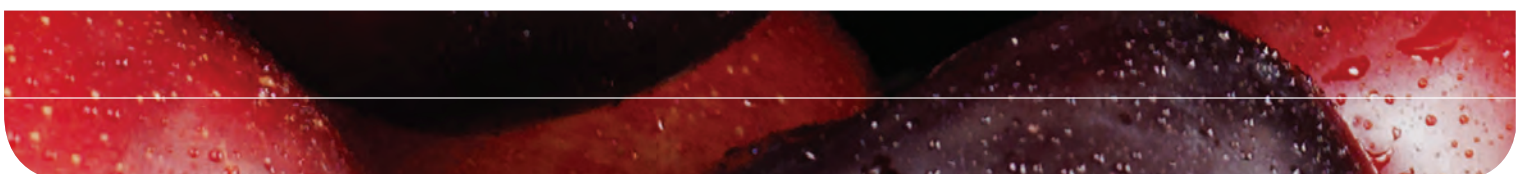
Fully-grown larvae are 10-12 mm long

Photo: Magnus Gammelgaard, www.plant-diseases.com



Internal damage is not seen unless the fruit is opened

Photo: Magnus Gammelgaard, www.plant-diseases.com





### How does it spread?

PFM is usually dispersed through movement of fruit infested with larvae.

### Where is it now?

PFM is widespread in Europe and northern Asia and is also found in northern Africa (Algeria).

### How can I protect my orchard from Plum fruit moth?

Source plant material only from 'clean', accredited suppliers, and preferably material that is certified. Check your orchard frequently for the presence of new pests and unusual symptoms. Make sure you are familiar with common summerfruit insect 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**



Internal damage caused by larval feeding

Photo: Magnus Gammelgaard, www.plant-diseases.com



Sticky gum may exude from the entry holes

Photo: Magnus Gammelgaard, www.plant-diseases.com

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