

Vegetable leafminer

Liriomyza sativae

What crops does it affect?

Wide range of vegetable and flower crops including onions, eggplant, beans, celery, peas, potatoes and tomatoes.

What does it look like?

Adults: Body length <2mm and wingspan <2mm. The head (including the antenna and face) is bright yellow. The rear margin of the eye is black. The fore-legs are brownish-yellow and the back legs are brownish-black. The abdomen is largely black with yellow sides. Vegetable leafminers don't often fly, and in crops showing active mining many flies may be seen walking rapidly over the leaves with only short jerky flights to adjacent leaves.

Eggs: Eggs are very small (<0.5mm long and <0.2mm wide), off-white and slightly translucent.

Larvae: Maggots have no separate head capsule and are transparent when newly hatched. They colour-up to a yellow-orange in later growth stages and are up to 3mm long.

Which part of the plant will be damaged?

Leaves, bulbs, flowers.

What should I look for?

Mines are usually white with moist black and dried brown areas. They are typically snake-like, tightly coiled. In larger leaves, the mines often form an irregular 'U' shape. The frass is deposited in black strips alternately at either side of the mine.

How does it spread?

Infested planting material.



Adult vegetable leaf miners.

Pest and Diseases Image Library, Bugwood.org



Larvae tunnel in onion leaf.

Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

**IF YOU SEE ANYTHING UNUSUAL,
CALL THE EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE**

1800 084 881

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