

Pear fruit moth

What is it?

The Pear fruit moth (*Acrobasis pyrivorella*) is rated as the most serious pest of cultivated pears in the far eastern territories of the former USSR and damages up to 90% of pear crops.

What do I look for?

A greyish moth with a violet tinge and a wingspan reaching 14-21 mm. The forewings have two transverse stripes and between them a crescent-shaped dark apical spot, while the hindwings are yellowish-grey. The head, thorax and dorsum are covered with ashen-violet-brown band.



Top view of adult moth

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Damage

Fruits are normally retarded in growth and turn black with a shrivelled appearance. Larvae spin a silk attachment to hold the fruit onto the tree and fruits remain on the tree even until the following year. During summer conspicuous webbing on exit holes and masses of excreta on the exterior of the fruit is characteristic.

Hosts

Wild and cultivated forms of pears are the main host of Pear fruit moth. Currently, there is no indication that the moth attacks other fruit trees and it is considered to be restricted to pears.

Where is it found?

Pear fruit moth is indigenous to the temperate zone of eastern Asia, where it is widely distributed. China (northern), Korea Democratic People's Republic, Korea Republic, Japan, Taiwan and the former USSR (Far Eastern regions).



Forewings have two transverse stripes with a crescent-shaped dark spot located between them

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Top view of adult moth showing wing markings

Control

If established, control of this pest would involve destroying infected fruit and neglected host trees. Pesticide and insecticide sprays can also be effectively used.

How can I protect my orchard from Pear fruit moth?

Check your farm frequently for the presence of new pests and unusual symptoms. Make sure you are familiar with common pome fruit pests so you can tell if you see something different.



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Adult moth from below

If you see anything unusual, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881



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