

## Exotic threats of the Onions: *Phytomyza gymnostoma* – Allium leaf miner

Appropriate image could not be obtained, if any image of relevance known please inform.

### What is it?

The Allium leaf miner is a pest of *Allium* crops, particularly onions, leeks, spring onions, garlic and chives and potentially of ornamental *Allium* plants. The larva mines the leaves and bulbs, making the plants soft and susceptible to bacterial and fungal infections, such as white rot. Heavy infestations completely destroy plants.

The fly is causing widespread damage to crops in an increasing number of European countries. The first UK outbreak was discovered in December 2003.

### What do I look for?

Adults: 2.8 - 3.5 mm long fly with a generally mat dark body. Head extensively yellow, with relatively small and roundish eyes. Legs dark with yellow knees.

Pupae: A 4-7 mm long cocoon orange brown in colour.

Larvae: Can vary in length from 1 – 10 mm and are white/cream in colour. The larvae have no legs or head capsule.

In Southern Europe, *P. gymnostoma* will produce two generations a year. First-generation adults emerge in March and April and lay eggs towards the base of leaves, or in the stalks, of *Allium* plants. Larvae emerge, feed and move downwards towards the base of the leaves, or the bulb, where pupation occurs. Second-generation adults emerge from the beginning of October to mid November. The larvae of this generation develop within the host until the end of November and over-winter as pupae.

## Where is it found?

Originally recorded only in small numbers from a limited number of European countries, *P. gymnostoma* has over the past 16 years been reported causing crop-damage in an ever increasing number of countries. It also appears to have been increasing its range. It is now widespread in Europe and has been recorded from Austria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Turkey.

## Reporting

Growers may report suspected exotic pests to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline (1800 084 881) or can directly contact their relevant state agriculture or primary industries department.

To minimise the risk of disease spread, samples should not be moved until they have been checked by an expert.

This fact sheet is part of the National Onion Industry Biosecurity Plan. For more information about the Biosecurity Plan, please contact Plant Health Australia.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact  
Plant Health Australia

Phone: +61 2 6260 4322  
Fax: +61 2 6260 4321  
[www.planthealthaustralia.com.au](http://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au)

ABN 97 092 607 997

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