

# American serpentine leaf miner

*Liriomyza trifolii*



Plant Health  
AUSTRALIA

EXOTIC PEST – CALL THE EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE IF SUSPECTED

## What crops does it affect?

Wide host range of over 400 species of plants in 28 families. The main host families and species include Solanaceae (for example potato, tomato, eggplant), Asteraceae, Alliaceae, Cucurbitaceae and Fabaceae.

## What does it look like?

Adult flies are small, yellow and black. Although female adults are larger and more robust than males, their small size still limits field identification. The larval stages are not usually seen as they remain inside the leaf tissue. The mines can be seen and are evidence of larvae presence.

## Which part of the plant will be damaged?

Leaves.

## What should I look for?

Numerous small dots or holes in the leaves (as upper leaf cells are destroyed), white or greenish-white mines (lines) and blotches on leaves. Fungal infection may also occur, as the feeding damage increases susceptibility to secondary infections.

## How does it spread?

Within a crop the insects are spread by flying. Long distance transport is likely to occur through the movement of infested plants, plant tops, soil or packaging.



American serpentine leaf miner.

*Central Science Laboratory, Harpenden Archive, British Crown, Bugwood.org*



Adult male American serpentine leaf miner.

*SRPV, Poitiers, Les Services Régionaux de la Protection des Végétaux, Bugwood.org*

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

**1800 084 881**

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