

# Vegetable leafminer

*Liriomyza sativae*



Plant Health  
AUSTRALIA

EXOTIC PEST – CALL THE EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE IF SUSPECTED

## What crops does it affect?

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

## What does it look like?

Body length <2mm and wingspan <2mm. The head (including the antenna and face) is bright yellow. 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.

## Which part of the plant will be damaged?

Leaves and 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 excrement of the miners is deposited in black strips on either side of the mine.

## How does it spread?

Infested planting material, and some flight within a crop.



Adult vegetable leaf miner.

*Pest and Diseases Image Library, Bugwood.org*



Larvae tunnel in onion leaf.

*Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org*



Vegetable leafminer pupae.

*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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