



Leek Moth

- An emerging invasive agricultural and garden pest in the northern New York region. •

What is the Leek Moth?

The Leek Moth (*Acrolepiopsis assectella*) is an invasive species of moth that has proven to be a severe pest of plants in the *Allium* family, such as onions, garlic, leeks, chives, and shallots.



Leek Moth Larva surrounded by frass (droppings) and debris on a garlic leaf



Leek Moth Pupa/Cocoon



Look for this "windowpane" damage to onion leaves

How do I identify the Leek Moth?

The adult moths are only 1/2 inch in length and have a 1/2 inch wingspan. They are reddish-brown in color with a white mark midway down their folded wings.

The larvae have a yellow-green color and are less than a 1/2 inch in length. Prior to pupating in a reddish-brown cocoon, they feed on the host plant causing significant damage.

Adult leek moths are nocturnal and small in size, so they are seldom spotted.

Larvae and their cocoons, on the other hand, are much more obvious.

What types of damage does the Leek cause?

In most cases, you are more likely to notice Leek Moth damage to your plants before you actually spot the insect itself.

Leek Moth larvae mine into the leaves of the host plant creating characteristic "windowpane" damage. This damage consists of long white streaks running lengthwise down the leaf of the plant. The larvae are commonly found within the damaged leaves.



Damage to garlic leaf and scape

If you suspect your onions, garlic, leeks or chives may be infested with Leek Moth, please contact your local Cornell Cooperative Extension Office.

For current control options visit

<http://web.entomology.cornell.edu/shelton/leek-moth/>



Leek Moth larva damage to leeks