

# A Bug's Life

# Cabbageworm

*Pieris rapae*

## Fun facts

- Very common white butterfly known as cabbage white
- Overwinter as pupae in leaf litter
- Several generations per year

## Host plants

- All crucifers, including cabbage, Brussel sprouts, broccoli, cauliflower and others

## Identification

Damage: Defoliation of leaves, damage to heads, distinct droppings

Caterpillar: Up to 1-1/4" long, velvety green, soft hairs, thin yellow stripe down back, 3 thoracic legs, 4 prolegs

Pupa: Greenish-brown chrysalis

Butterfly: 1-3/4" long, white butterfly with black spots and markings, usually seen with wings held together

## Management

- Scout early on underside of leaves
- Handpick mature caterpillars
- Install floating row covers
- Garden sanitation and fall clean up
- Control when larvae are small with *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Btk)
- Organic options include neem oil, spinosad and pyrethrum (Use spreader-sticker to coat plant)



Photos: J. Green