

# A Bug's Life

# Diamondback moth

*Plutella xylostella*

## Fun facts

- Eggs laid on undersurfaces of leaves
- Caterpillars drop from plant on silken threads when disturbed
- Migrate from southern regions
- Several generations per year

## Host plants

- Crucifers, including cabbage, Brussel sprouts, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, kohlrabi and others

## Identification

Damage: Feed on underside of leaves creating windowpaning, small holes

Caterpillar: Up to 3/8" long, small, slender, spindle-shaped, forked tail

Pupa: Gauze-like cocoon

Moth: 1/2" long, grayish-brown, slender, tan zigzag marks on forewing that resemble diamonds

## Management

- Scout early when plants are young
- Pull back leaves and check undersides
- Handpick caterpillars
- Install floating row covers
- Garden sanitation and fall clean up
- Can cause damage to young transplants, especially when other caterpillars contribute to damage



Photos: J. Green