

# A Bug's Life Tobacco budworm

*Chloridea virescens*

## Fun facts

- Also known as geranium budworm
- Master of camouflage
- Overwinter as pupa in soil, but can survive indoors in containers

## Host plants

- Caterpillars feed on geranium, petunia, nicotiana, verbena and aster

## Identification

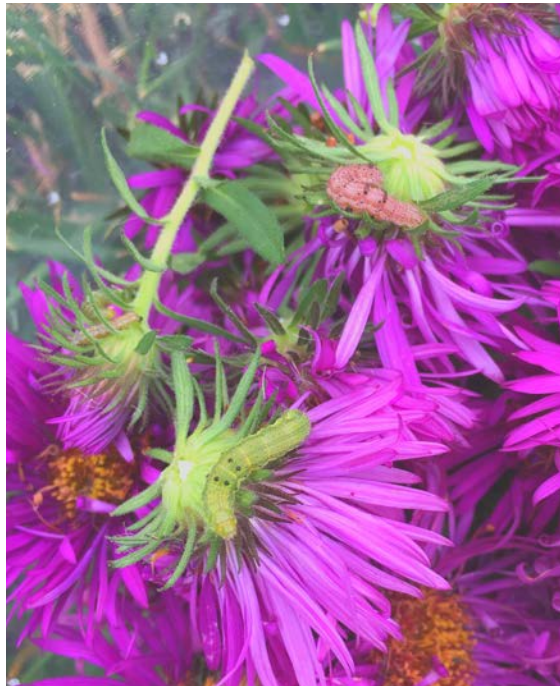
Damage: Holes in buds and ragged flowers

Caterpillar: Variable in color, based on host plant, small black dots on body, mature caterpillars may have stripes and 1.5" fully grown

Moth: Pale green moth with 3 gray-brown parallel lines

## Management

- Hand picking caterpillars at night
- Remove flower head and dispose
- Repot before bringing inside for winter, discard old soil
- Insecticides are not usually effective and conflict with pollinator conservation



Photos: J. Green