

A Bug's Life

Purple carrot-seed moth

Depressaria depressana

Fun facts

- Invasive species from western Europe, Russia and China
- First found in N. America in 2008
- Carrots, celery and parsnips are unlikely to be damaged
- Most damage will occur to seeds of herbs when caterpillars feed and pupate in protective silken shelter

Identification

Damage: Clumps of silken webbing on flower heads

Caterpillar: 1/4" long, dark green or reddish with white polkadots all over body, dark head

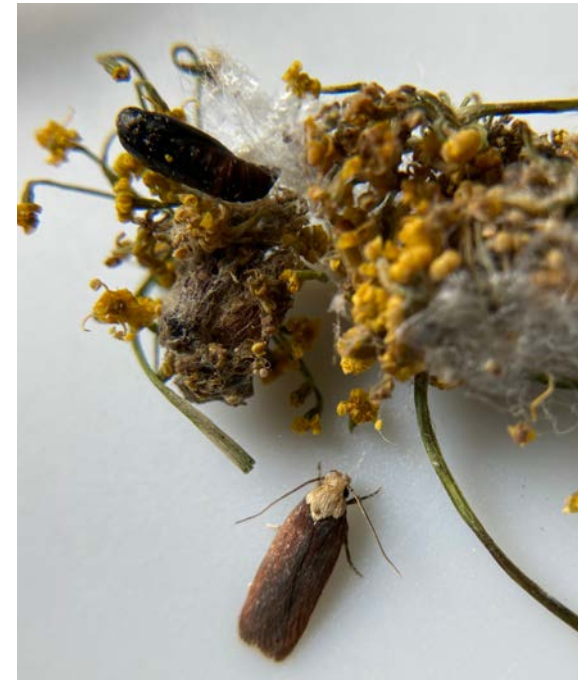
Moth: 3/8" inch, light beige head, purplish-brown wings folded back at rest

Host plants

- Plants in carrot or parsley family including dill, fennel, celery, anise, coriander, parsley, parsnip, etc.

Management

- Cut and destroy flower heads
- Organic options for herbs include insecticidal soap, neem oil, and *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstanki* (Btk)



Photos: J. Green