

A Bug's Life

Sunflower moth

Homoeosoma electellum

Fun facts

- Caterpillars feed in flower head
- Infested heads have mats of webbing and dark frass pellets
- Migratory moth
- Nocturnal, lays eggs at night
- 1-2 generations per year: Injury June to August

Identification

Caterpillar: Light brown head, yellow body with purplish or dark brown stripes

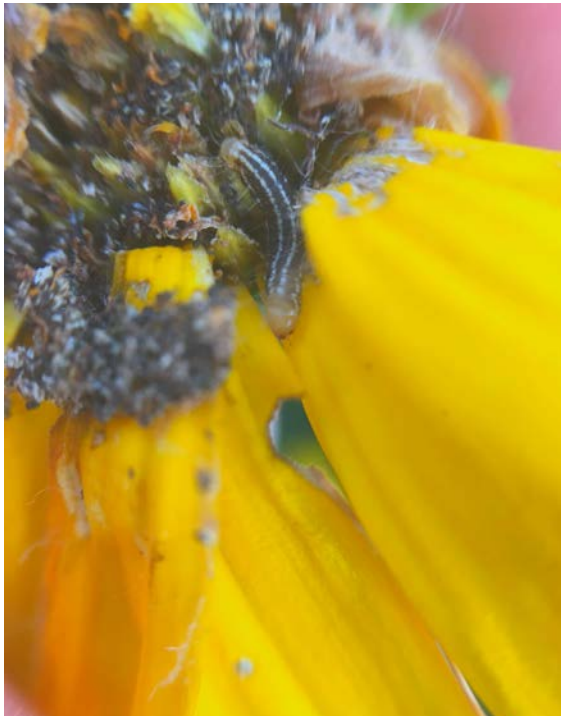
Moth: Silver moth with long snout and tightly wrapped wings

Host plants

- Composite flowers, such as sunflowers and coneflower

Management

- Remove infested flower heads
- Insecticide treatment, when little risk to pollinators



Photos: J. Green