

# A Bug's Life

# Hornworms

Tobacco hornworm - *Manduca sexta*  
Tomato hornworm - *Manduca quinquemaculata*

## Fun facts

- Caterpillars often camouflaged
- Distinct grenade-like frass
- Overwinter as pupae in soil
- Susceptible to many natural enemies, including parasitoid wasps

## Host plants

- Tomato, tobacco, peppers, potato and others

## Identification

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

Caterpillar: Up to 3" to 5" long, various shades of green with horn-like tail

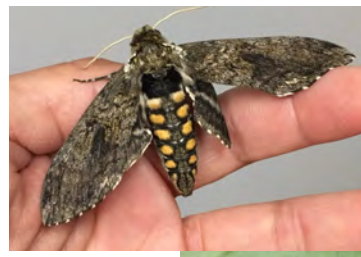
Tomato hornworm: Black horn, 8 light, V-shapes on each side

Tobacco hornworm: Red horn, 7 diagonal lines on each side

Moth: Large brown sphinx moth

## Management

- Scout young plants twice per week
- Handpick to remove caterpillars
- Tilling practices destroy pupae
- Insecticide treatment not recommended for home gardens, but organic options include *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Btk) or spinosad



Photos: J. Green