Tomato hornworm

Fun facts
- Caterpillars often camouflaged
- Distinct grenade-shaped 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

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Family: Sphingidae
Tobacco hornworm - *Manduca sexta*
Tomato hornworm - *Manduca quinquemaculata*

*Row covers should be removed or pulled back when plants flower to allow for pollination*