

Spinach XXIX-2

Defoliating Caterpillars

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Caterpillar Looper (Photo USDA Bug 1271)

Looper

Identification (and life cycle/seasonal history)

Several species of caterpillars can feed on lettuce. Adult moths emerge and mate in late spring, soon after laying eggs on plant leaves.

Management approaches

Cultural Controls

Row covers are effective in excluding loopers and preventing egg laying

Biological Control

Loopers are preyed upon by several generalist predators, such as wasps and spider. Parasites and viral diseases also commonly kill loopers. *Bacillus thuringiensis* is effective in killing larval stages.

Chemical control

Insecticides should be employed to prevent excessive defoliation.

Product List for Defoliating Caterpillars:

Insecticide	Product per Acre	Preharvest Interval, remarks
Dipel 2X ¹ , Biobit W ¹	0.5-2.0 lb	(0 days) <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> product. Most formulations are

Dipel 4L ¹ , Biobit F ¹	0.5-2 pt	acceptable under current regulations for Certified Organic produce.
Javelin WG ¹	0.25-0.5 lb	
Pyrenone	2-6 fl oz	(0 days) Botanical insecticide (pyrethrins) with fast action and irritant activity but very short residual.
Ambush 25W ^R , Pounce 25W ^R	6.4-12.8 oz	(1 day) Restricted Use. Pyrethroid insecticides (permethrin).
Ambush 2E ^R	6-12.8 fl oz	Extremely toxic to aquatic organisms.
Pounce 3.2E ^R	4-8 fl oz	
Lannate 90S ^R	0.5-1 lb	(7 days) Do not apply when minimum daily temperatures are below freezing. Do not apply to seedlings. Carbamate insecticide (methomy). 48 hour reentry interval proposed. Not registered for chemigation.
Lannate L ^R	2-4 p1	
Ammo WSB ^{R1}	1-2 bags/acre (WSB)	1 day. Pyrethroid insecticide. Maximum 0.4 lb
Ammo 2.5EC ^{R1}	2.5-5.0 fl oz (2.5EC)	(AI)/acre per season, applications at least 7 days apart.
Larvin 3.2 ¹	16-30 fl oz	14 days. Carbamate insecticide. Do not exceed 1.5 lb (AI)/acre per season. Has some ovicidal activity.

^RRestricted Use Product. ¹Labeled for chemigation

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Categories: Caterpillars, Insects, Spinach

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