Yellowstriped Armyworms in Hemp

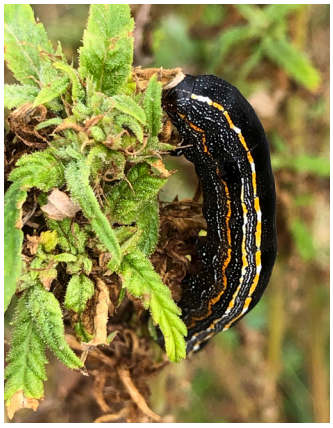
► Learn to identify and manage yellowstriped armyworms, which can damage hemp and other crops.

Identification

- Appearance is gray or black with two yellow stripes along each side of the body.
- Size is up to 1¾ inches.
- Young larvae are often found in groups but spread out as they get older.

The Life of a Yellowstriped Armyworm

- Yellowstriped armyworms feed on a variety of crops including hemp, tomatoes, corn, cotton, and other vegetables.
- They overwinter in the soil as pupae and emerge in the spring.
- Adult female moths lay egg clusters on the underside of leaves.
- These clusters can contain hundreds of eggs that hatch in 3 to 5 days.
- Larvae feed for about 3 weeks before moving into the soil to pupate.
- There are between 3 and 5 generations of yellowstriped armyworms each year.



Damage

- Damage is caused by the larval form of the moth.
- Yellowstriped armyworms can be found on hemp throughout the growing season.
- Young larvae will feed on the foliage of vegetative hemp without causing economic damage
- In years with large yellowstriped armyworm populations, they can be found in reproductive hemp later in the season. Caterpillar feeding on floral structures can lead to yield and quality loss.

Management

- Younger armyworms are easier to control.
- Plants should be scouted regularly throughout, beginning with young plants.
- Young seedlings are vulnerable if large numbers of armyworms are feeding.
- Hand removal of caterpillars is an effective means of control.
- *Bacillus thuringiensis* works well as biobased control of yellowstriped armyworms in hemp, but complete coverage is essential. Multiple applications may be necessary.
- Use the Farming Basics Mobile App to locate Alabama Extension personnel for any questions.

PEER REVIEWED ALABAMA EXTENSION

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For more information, contact your county Extension office. Visit www.aces.edu/directory.