

Cutworm incidence and damage on peas

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Heavy cutworm damage was noticed on peas at certain locations in the Sunburst and other Golden Triangle areas of Montana. Cutworms are the larvae (caterpillars) of numerous species of night-flying moths in the family Noctuidae, which are usually active for feeding during the night. The larvae are called cutworms because they cut down young plants when feeding on stems at or below the soil surface. Cutworm damage occurs on early in the season when plant seedlings are small and have tender tissue. On a regular basis monitor your fields, particularly during late afternoon and evening when cutworms are active, so you can notice their movement when they are initial present.

Refer the MontGuide to know about biology, damage, monitoring and decision-making guidelines, <http://store.msuextension.org/publications/agandnaturalresources/mt200005ag.pdf>

For chemical control, refer High Plains IPM Guide, https://wiki.bugwood.org/HPIPm:Cutworms_DB



Cutworm incidence in pea fields (Photo courtesy: Dr. Shabeg Briar and Deb Miller)



Cutworm damage to peas (Photo courtesy: Dr. Shabeg Briar and Deb Miller)