

# COTTON “WORMS” ID KEY

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## COTTON BOLLWORM – TOBACCO BUDWORM

- ▶ Both worms are green to brown with stripes the length of the body.
- ▶ Heads are tan to amber.
- ▶ Both worms have prominent black hairs on the body.
- ▶ Closely examine mouthparts (mandibles) with a hand lens to separate the species.

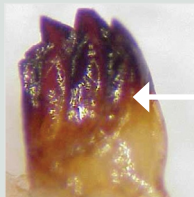


(Photo by Martin Spellman, University of Delaware)



Head capsule showing mandibles.

(Photo by Philip Roberts, University of Georgia)



Cotton bollworm. Inside tooth is absent.

(Photo by Philip Roberts)



Tobacco budworm. Inside tooth is present.

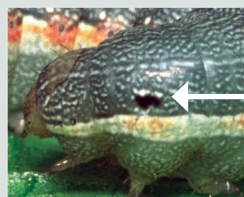
(Photo by Philip Roberts)

## BEET ARMYWORM

- ▶ The body is usually light green and hairless.
- ▶ There are fine white lines along the back, with a broader stripe on each side.
- ▶ A small black spot is on each side of the body above the second true leg.



(Photo by Martin Spellman)



(Photo by Martin Spellman)

## FALL ARMYWORM

- ▶ Head is tan to dark with a white inverted “Y.”
- ▶ Four black dots on the rear of the worm form a “square.”



(Photo by Martin Spellman)



(Photo by Martin Spellman)



(Photo by Martin Spellman)

## SOUTHERN ARMYWORM

- ▶ The body is gray to black with two narrow white lines along the top.
- ▶ A series of dark, triangular markings can be seen along the upper body.
- ▶ A broad, yellowish or whitish stripe runs along the side of the body.
- ▶ A dark spot may be visible on the first abdominal segment.



(Photo by John L. Capinera, University of Florida)

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## YELLOWSTRIPED ARMYWORM

- ▶ The body is pale gray to jet black.
- ▶ Along the side of the body is a broad, brown band between two cream or white lines.
- ▶ A dark spot appears on the side of the fourth body segment (behind the third true leg).
- ▶ Triangular black spots on the upper side of the body are often distinct.



(Photo by John L. Capinera)

## CABBAGE LOOPER

- ▶ The worm “inches” or loops when crawling.
- ▶ There are three thick pairs of prolegs near the rear of the body.
- ▶ A single stripe is seen along the side of the body.



(Photo by Martin Spellman)

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