

# Fall Armyworm

## Identification guide

This guide is designed to help identify Fall Armyworm. Native armyworm species and Fall Armyworm are very similar at first glance. If in doubt about the identification, take a photograph of the key features shown in this guide and send it to an agronomist or entomologist. For further information to assist with identification and monitoring refer to the **Fall Armyworm field guide**.



Female moth (left), male moths are slightly smaller than females (right)



Adult females can lay 50-200 eggs, usually on the lower leaves of crops and pastures



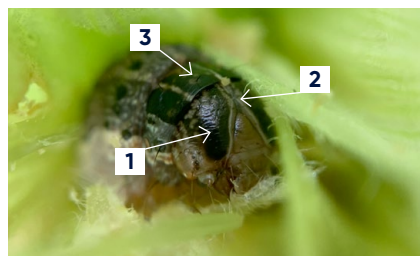
Eggs are covered in protective scales from the female's body



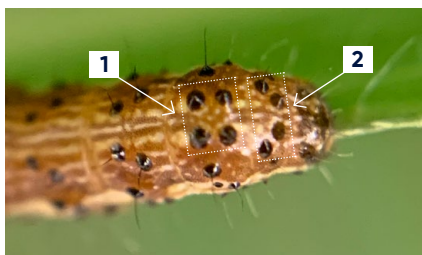
Newly hatched larvae (1st instars - left) and early feeding stage (2nd instars - right)



Larvae can vary in colour depending on host and age. Larvae can vary from brown to light and dark green or grey. Medium and large larvae (4th - 6th instar, 10-35+mm long)



Showing mottling on the head capsule (1), the inverted Y (2) and the thoracic shield the same colour as the head capsule (3)



The rear end of a large caterpillar showing a pattern of dark, raised spots with four spots arranged in a square (1) and the trapezoid of spots on segment nine (2)



Caterpillars are at their most damaging when they are 30-40mm long



The pupa is a shiny brown and is found in the soil up to 80mm deep near the base of damaged plants

All photographs are provided by the Queensland Department of Primary Industries.

Use scale to measure  
larval size

### Disclaimer

The content of this publication is provided for general information only and has not been prepared to address your specific circumstances. We do not guarantee the completeness, accuracy or timeliness of the information.

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