



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Potato tuber moth (298)



Photo 1. Leaf mine of the potato tuber moth, *Phthorimaea operculella*.



Photo 2. Photo 1. Leaf mine of the potato tuber moth, *Phthorimaea operculella*, with larva inside.



Photo 3. Tunnels in potato tuber caused by the larvae of the potato tuber moth, *Phthorimaea operculella*.



Photo 4. Larva of the potato tuber moth, *Phthorimaea operculella*.



Photo 5. Potato tuber moth adult, *Phthorimaea operculella*.

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On potato, tomato and tobacco, the main hosts. An important pest.
- Eggs laid on leaves, and the leaves and stems mined. As soil cracks, larvae attack tubers near soil surface. Damage causes rots. Spread is in seed tubers.
- Natural enemies: wasp parasitoids and parasites.
- Cultural control: certified seed; remove volunteers; weeds; tolerant varieties; deep planting; test onion intercrops; hill-up; avoid overlapping crops; crop rotation; mulch before harvest; avoid cull piles.
- Chemical control: sprays of abamectin, spinosad, or synthetic pyrethroids. Neem in storage.

Common Name

Potato tuber moth

Scientific Name

Phthorimaea operculella

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Information from CABI (2015) *Phthorimaea operculella* (potato tuber moth). Crop Protection Compendium (www.cabi.org/cpc); and from Harsimran K, *et al.* (2014) Featured Creatures: Potato tuberworm. UF/IFAS, University of Florida. (http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/VEGPOTATO/potato_tubeworm.htm). Photos 1-3 Western Australian Agriculture Authority (Department of Agriculture and Food WA). Photos 4&5 MAF Plant Health & Environment Laboratory (2011) Potato Tuber Moth (*Phthorimaea operculella*). (PaDIL - (<http://www.padil.gov.au>)).

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This mini fact sheet is a part of the app *Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds*

The mobile application is available from the Google Play Store and Apple iTunes.

