Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Zucchini (vegetable) leafminer (262)

Photo 1. Leafminer damage to zucchini by *Liriomyza* sp.

Photo 2. Close -up of Photo 1 showing the white, irregular leaf mines of *Liriomyza* sp.

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On many plants in the cabbage, carrot, cucumber, daisy, legume and potato families, including crops, ornamentals and weeds. An important pest.
- A fly, less than 2 mm long, laying eggs in the leaf surface, with maggots that tunnel (or “mine”) between the upper and lower surfaces. Adults black and yellow, feeding on plant sap (females puncture leaves when laying eggs), and nectar. Leaves die early reducing yield, seedlings wilt and die, and poor-quality produce affects price, especially ornamentals.
- Cultural control: weed; check plants in the nursery; plough to expose pupae in soil; avoid planting susceptible crops on same land and immediately after harvest of infested crops; handpick leaves with mines; keep plants well-watered.
- Chemical control: Avoid broad spectrum insecticides, such as synthetic pyrethroids, carbamates and organophosphates. Use neem, abamectin, or cyromazine - an insect growth regulator.

Common Name

Vegetable leafminer, chrysanthemum leafminer, melon leafminer

Scientific Name

Liriomyza sativae

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Information from Waterhouse DF, Norris KR (1987) *Biological Control Pacific Prospects*. Inkata Press. Melbourne; and CABI (2015) *Liriomyza sativae* (vegetable leaf miner) Crop Protection Compendium. (www.cabi.org/cpc); and from Liriomyza sativae (Blanchard), Crop Master. EXTension ENTOmology & UH-CTAHR Integrated Pest Management Program. (http://www.extento.hawaii.edu/Kbase/Crop/Type/liriom_s.htm); and from JL Capinera, UF/IFAS, University of Florida. (http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/veg/leaf/vegetable_leafminer.htm).

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