

Insect pests of buds

Cutworms

Cutworms damage plants by feeding on young tissues. They spend the day time in leaf litter or in upper soil layers under bushes, and they tend to be more of a problem in weedy fields. Larvae are active at night and crawl up onto bushes after the first warm spring days. For this reason, inspect bushes for injured buds during delayed-dormant to budbreak. Buds may be partly or entirely consumed, and multiple buds may be damaged during one night of feeding. Cutworm larvae are typically 1 inch long (25 mm) and dark colored. When disturbed, they curl into a C-shape.

25 mm



Mississippi State Univ Archives



Left, cutworm larvae are found under leaf litter. Right, cutworm damage.