The cross-striped cabbageworm, *Evergestis rimosalis*, caterpillar feeds on a number of vegetable crops in the Brassicaceae (cole crop) family, such as broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, and collards. The caterpillar also feeds on turnips and leafy-green vegetables. This publication provides information on pest biology, identification, and plant damage, along with strategies for managing cross-striped cabbageworm populations.

### Plant Damage
Caterpillars have chewing mouthparts and create irregular-shaped holes in leaves when feeding until only the veins remain (Figure 4). Caterpillars also feed on the terminal buds and top growth of certain vegetable crops (Figure 5). Leaves may be skeletonized as a result of extensive caterpillar feeding (Figure 6).

### Biology and Identification
Adult moths are 0.4 to 0.6 inches (10 to 14 mm) long and brown with dark eyes and blotched markings on the tips of the wings (Figure 1). Females lay yellow, flat eggs in groups on the undersides of leaves. Larvae or caterpillars hatch (eclose) from eggs and are approximately ¾ inch (19 mm) long when fully grown (Figure 2).

Caterpillars have black and white stripes across the body, two dots on each segment of the abdomen, and yellow lines that extend the length of the body on both sides (Figure 3). Cross-striped cabbageworm caterpillars may be found feeding on plants alongside caterpillars of the imported cabbageworm, *Artogeia rapae*. There are two to three generations per year.
Plant Protection Strategies

**Scouting.** Susceptible vegetable crops should be inspected weekly throughout the growing season, focusing on the undersides of leaves where caterpillars are located. Early detection can reduce subsequent plant damage and help avoid outbreaks.

**Cultural.** Remove weeds that may harbor cross-striped cabbageworm caterpillars including wild mustard, *Sinapis arvensis*, and shepherd’s purse, *Capsella bursa-pastoris*.

**Physical/Mechanical.** The placement of protective barriers or floating row covers (Figure 7) over plants will prevent females from laying eggs, thus reducing the number of caterpillars that can damage plants. Caterpillars can be removed by hand and placed into a container of soapy water.

**Insecticides.** Insecticides used to manage cross-striped cabbageworm populations are most effective if applied when caterpillars are small (less than ¾ inch or 19 mm). The insecticides *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *kurstaki* and spinosad are stomach poisons that caterpillars must ingest as wet or dry residues on plant leaves to be negatively affected. However, once caterpillars are ¾ inch (19 mm) long or greater, stomach poisons will not be effective. Consequently, contact insecticides should be applied as needed to manage cross-striped cabbageworm caterpillar populations.

**Beneficial Insects**

Parasitoids or parasitic wasps such as *Trichogramma* spp. can be purchased from retail outlets and released into the garden. However, the parasitoids do not directly affect caterpillar populations because they only attack the eggs.