

CANADA.
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.
ENTOMOLOGICAL BRANCH.
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Crop Protection Leaflet No. 3.

Cutworms and Their Control.*

Injurious insects wage a heavy toll on farmers, fruit growers, and gardeners. The annual loss from such pests amounts to many millions of dollars. Among the destructive insects, the cutworms are insidious enemies which necessitate prompt warfare if we would save the enormous quantity of food-producing plants which they destroy every year.

In general, cutworms are similar in appearance, being smooth, cylindrical caterpillars, about one inch or more in length, and in colour of some dull shade similar to the ground in which they hide during the day.

The moths, which lay the eggs from which the cutworms develop, are of a grayish or dull brownish colour, and measure with the wings spread, from about an inch to two inches in width. When at rest the wings lie folded over the body. Being nocturnal in habit they are seldom seen during the day time, but in the early evening they appear in search of the nectar of flowers. The eggs laid by these moths are pale in colour,



Young plant showing characteristic cutting habit of cutworms; cutworm on earth, above; cutworm coiled up in earth, below. (Original).

dome-shaped, and less than one twenty-fifth of an inch in diameter. They are deposited in clusters or masses on the leaves of trees, shrubs, weeds, grasses, etc., and some kinds even lay their eggs on the soil. They are chiefly active in June, July, and August.

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