

The eggs (see figure 13, *e* and *f*) of these moths are, in general, similar in appearance, being pale in colour, dome-shaped and less than one millimeter in diameter. If examined under a lens, they are seen to be beautifully ribbed, the ribs being joined by indistinct cross-ridges.

The caterpillars, or cutworms, of these moths, are also, usually, nocturnal in habit. When conditions are not normal, however, as for instance where there is a lack of food, their feeding habits become changed and they feed by day as well as by night. In general, cutworms are similar in appearance, being smooth, cylindrical caterpillars about an inch or more in length, and in colour of some dull shade, similar to the ground. When disturbed, they coil themselves up. During the day they hide just beneath the surface of the soil.



FIG. 2.—Young plant showing characteristic cutting habit of cutworms. (Original).

NATURE OF INJURIES.

Injury by cutworms is mostly effected in spring, when plants are young and succulent, but there are a few species which occur in destructive numbers as late as the middle of summer. As a rule, however, cutworm injury ceases before the end of June. As their popular name indicates, these caterpillars have the habit of cutting off the plants, during the night, near the surface of the ground or a little below it. When they are present in numbers in a garden or field, the plants will soon be seen to have been cut, or eaten off, and if an examination is made, the cutworm will most likely be discovered in the soil, coiled up and just below the surface. In many instances, the young plant will be found to have been drawn partly into the ground. Not all cutworms, however, feed in this manner; some climb up into fruit trees or such plants as currants, gooseberries, tomatoes, etc., and feed upon the foliage or the fruit. In fact, when they are excessively abundant, they will attack anything green and juicy. In such years some kinds assume the marching habit, so characteristic of the Army-worm. In seasons of severe infestations it is often necessary, unless the proper precautions are taken, to resow, or replant a second, or even a third, time before a crop can be secured.