

TWO IMPORTANT VEGETABLE PESTS.

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The Potato Stem Borer (*Gortyna mlcacea* Esp.)

During the past summer numerous complaints have been heard concerning the damage to potatoes, corn, rhubarb, etc. by a boring caterpillar and articles on this "new potato pest" received wide circulation in the local press. The culprit responsible was described as a naked caterpillar, about an inch and three eighths long when full grown, with a shiny chestnut-brown head, pinkish or greyish-pink back, pale at the joints of the body and with under surface and legs lighter in color. This is not a new pest as many suppose, though it undoubtedly has been unusually common during the past summer, possibly due to the fact that so many new back yard gardens were planted on waste land that had formerly been overgrown with weeds. The insect is an emigrant from Europe and gained a foothold in Canada several years ago. It has been under observation at the Agricultural College for the past three years. It is called the potato stem borer because the potato is one of its favorite food plants.

Food Plants.

We have found the insect attacking not only the potato, but also corn, rhubarb and sugar beets and very likely it will be to infest other garden crops. It has been recorded