



Maruca damage to long beans



Maruca caterpillar

**Common Name:**

Bean Pod Borer

**Scientific Name:***Maruca testulalis* (Geyer) (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae)

Eggs are laid in the flower buds, or on the pods. The caterpillars develop inside the pods, feeding on the seeds, and usually pupate inside the pod. Caterpillars feed inside the flowers preventing fruit set, and bore into the pods. Damaged pods are not marketable. In fields which are not sprayed or which are sprayed with ineffective materials, as many as 25 percent of the beans may be damaged.

Various species of beans, particularly yard-long beans and pole beans are affected by the Bean Pod Borer.

It is widely distributed in the Tropics, and present in the Marianas and Belau..

**Control:** A regular spray program with *Bacillus thuringiensis* or with an insecticide, beginning with the first flowering of the crop is necessary to control this insect. For more information, contact an Agricultural Extension Agent by calling 734-2575, 734-2579, 734-2518 or 734-4753.

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