

Io Moth Caterpillar

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FIG. 1

Type Pest: chewing insect (*Automeris IO*)

Type of Metamorphous: complete (egg, larva, pupa, adult stages)

Other Common Names:

Plants Affected:

- Corn, roses, clover and blackberry
- Trees such as cherry, maple, hackberry, redbud, mesquite, blackberry, pear oak, beech, poplar, willow, and other trees and shrubs

Period of Primary Occurrence: February through September (several broods per year)

Identifying Characteristics of Insect Pest

- Adult IO moths are smaller than most silk moths with a wingspread of about two to three inches
- They also have black eye spots in the hind wings; males have yellow forewings, female forewings are browner
- Eggs are laid in clusters and look like kernels of corn
- The larvae have clusters of bristle hairs on conspicuous raised areas on each segment, hairs can be very irritating to humans (handle carefully)
- Young caterpillars feed in groups and move in "trains"
- Young larvae start out orange with gray bristles, later adding red side stripes and branched spines, at maturity larvae are green with red side stripes

Description / Symptoms

- Poisonous hairs are hollow and connect to underlying poison glands
- Contact causes a burning sensation and inflammation can be as painful as a bee sting
- Can last for a day or two and maybe accompanied by nausea during first few hours



FIG. 2



FIG. 3



FIG. 4

Best Management Practices (BMP)

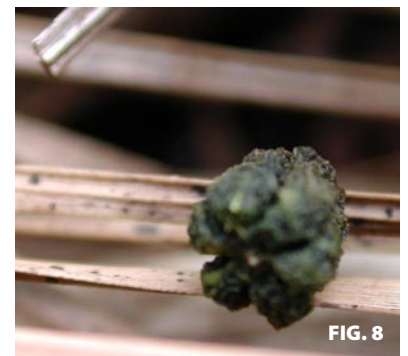
CHEMICAL CONTROL

- Not required, but people who work with plants should learn to recognize them
- A person stung by a poisonous caterpillar should immediately wash the affected area, use an ice pack to reduce swelling or steroid creams. Persons sensitive to insect stings should consult a physician

Sources:

http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu/misc/io_moth.htm

<http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/species?l=3305>



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Use pesticides only according to the directions on the label. Individuals who use chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. If the information does not agree with current labeling, follow the label instructions. The label is the law.

Always remember to read and heed six of the most important words on the label:
“KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN”

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