Peanut Field Day 2025: Select Insect Identification and Management

Foliage Feeding Caterpillars:

Various worm species feed on peanuts throughout the season, but the good thing is that we have thresholds for them. For all worms, the threshold is an average of **4-8 worms per foot of row**. Use the lower end of the threshold when plants are young or stressed and the higher one when there is vigorous growth. Good scouting is accomplished by vigorously shaking peanut vines and foliage to dislodge the insects onto the ground or using a beat sheet. Sampling three feet of row at 10 locations in the field is sufficient for a typical 40–80-acre field. A good idea of the species and size of the caterpillars should be noted, as they will help with insecticide selection.

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS:

There are many options available for controlling caterpillars. However, it is important to know what species you are dealing with or the most abundant species in the case of multiple species present.

Growth Regulators:

- Effective, but remember the lag before visible effects
- Better to use when majority are small larvae
- **Diamond** .83 EC (6-12 oz/a)
- **Dimilin 2L** (2-4 oz/a)

BAW Options

- No chlorantraniliprole
- No pyrethroids
- Diamond or Intrepid Edge
  - Not sure about Intrepid

For a complete list of labeled products and rates, see the following: EDIS ***#ENY2101 "Insect and Mite Pest Management in Florida Peanut"***

Diamides: Chlorantraniliprole

- Quicker knockdown
- Do not use for BAW
- **Vantacor** (1.2-2.5 oz/a)
- **Besiege** (5-10 oz/a)
  - Has a pyrethroid pre-mixed, do not use in non-irrigated due to spider mite risk.

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Peanut Field Day 2025: Lesser Corn Stalk Borer and Spider Mite Management

Lesser Corn Stalk Borer (LCB):

(*Elasmopalpus lignosellus*)

Young LCB larvae

Identification and Scouting:

- Larvae have a dark head and can range from blueish green to reddish brown and move violently when disturbed.
- Adult moths are smaller compared to other foliage-feeding worms. When resting, moths hold their wings straight back along the body. The front wings of males are yellowish brown with a dark brown/purplish band, whereas females are all dark brown/purplish.

NEED TO SCOUT! The presence of moths flying is a good sign that LCBs may be in the field. Look for wilted stems, check stems for silk tubes, and pull up plants to check tap roots, pods, and stems for feeding/tunneling and larvae.

Management:

- Check **3ft of row** at 10 locations throughout the field. If you find LCBs, LCB damage, or silk tubes in **30%** of sports checked, it's time to spray.
- Chlorantraniliprole, which is the AI in **Vantacor** and **Besiege**, works well. Be careful with besiege as it has a pyrethroid, and you risk flaring spider mites in non-irrigated peanuts. Diamond, a growth regulator, also works well for LCB. These products have good residual activity as well.

Two Spotted Spider Mite

(*Tetranychus urticae*):

Favor hot and dry conditions:

- Keep an eye on non-irrigated fields and dry corners.
- Infestations usually start at field edges and margins
- Small patches of yellowing can be seen at the start of an infestation.
- Mites are usually found on the lower surface of the leaves and can be difficult to see in low numbers.

Management:

Only two miticides are registered for peanut:

- **Comite II** (36oz/A): nymph and adult efficacy
  - 2X/season limit
  - May need a second app
- **Portal** (2pt/A): **All** stages.
  - 2X/season limit

Coverage is Key → Recommended 20 GPA
BUT as high as what works for you, 5 GPA is better than 3 and 10 is better than 5.

- Effective when applied properly and early

NO PYRETHROIDS!→ even if labeled

Comite II 6EC (*propargite*)	2.25 pt	48 H	14 D	Do not apply more than twice a season. Do not graze or feed livestock on treated areas or cut treated forage for hay.
Portal (*Fenpyroximate*) ✓	1–2 pt	24H	1D	Do not apply more than twice or more than 4.0 pt per season. Allow 14 days between applications. Apply by ground using a minimum of 10 gallons of water per acre. Apply by air using a minimum of 3 gallons of water per acre.
Baythroid XL 1EC; Tombstone (*beta-cyfluthrin*) ✗	1.8–3.4 fl oz	12 H	14 D	Pyrethroid; can flare spider mites.
Brigade 2EC (*bifenthrin*) ✗	2.1–6.4 fl oz	12 H	14 D	Pyrethroid; can flare spider mites.

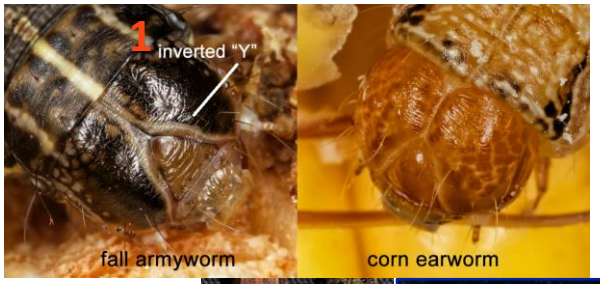
Peanut Field Day 2025: Caterpillar/Worm ID

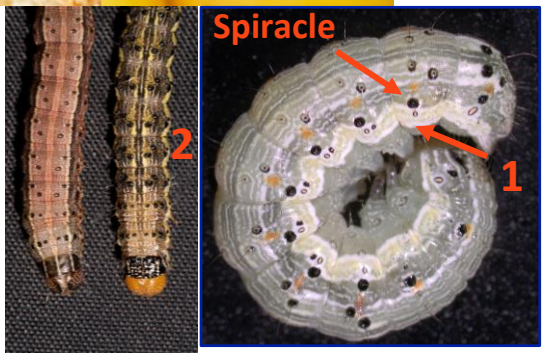
Fall Armyworm (FAW):
(Spodoptera frugiperda)

Key Features:

- gray, light brown or mottled green in color
- Distinct inverted 'Y' on head capsule (1)
- Smooth skin with few hairs (2)

FAW: Adult Female





Corn Earworm/Bollworm (CEW)
(Helicoverpa zea)

Key Features:

- Variable in color: green, yellow, or orangish → unreliable for ID
- Yellow strip below spiracles (1)
- Skin coarse and covered with short black hairs (2)

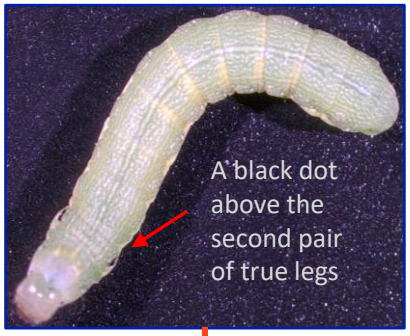
CEW: Adult Female

Southern Armyworm:
(Spodoptera eridania)

Key Features:

- Green/blackish green
- Reddish-brown head capsule.
- White or yellow stripe runs dorsally and along the sides of the body.
- Series of dark triangles are usually present along the length of the body.

Southern: Adult Female



Beet Armyworm (BAW):
(Spodoptera exigua)

Key Features:

- Generally smooth in appearance and green with or without dark lateral stripes.
- Small black dot above second pair of true legs (1).

BAW: Adult Female

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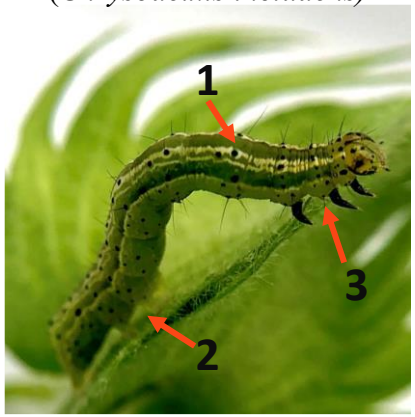
Peanut Field Day 2025:

Soybean Looper
(*Chrysodeixis includens*)

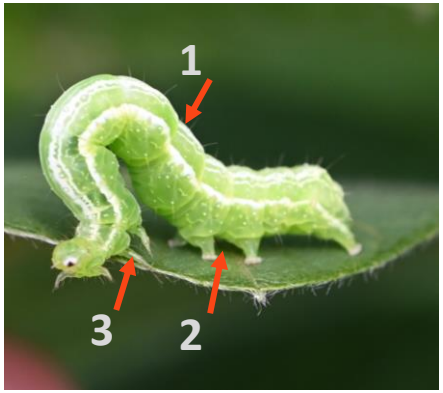


Key Features:

- Black spots visible on side (1)
- 2p abdominal prolegs (2)
- Black thoracic Legs (3)

Notes on SBL:
Soybean looper infestations start low in the peanut canopy and can be missed if fields are not scouted properly. They can be difficult to control because of lower canopy preference and susceptibility to some insecticides (pyrethroids).

Cabbage Looper
(*Trichoplusia ni*)

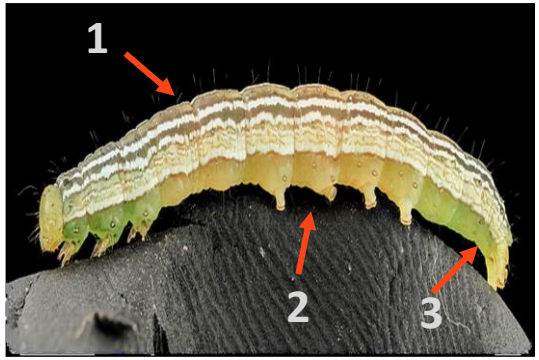


Key Features:

- No Black spots visible on side (1)
- 2p abdominal prolegs (2)
- Green thoracic Legs (3)

Notes on CL:
Similar to the soybean looper, with two pairs of prolegs. Usually found earlier in the season in the panhandle compared to the soybean looper. Tends to be higher in the canopy than soybean loopers. Easier to kill as it is not known to be tolerant/resistant to products.

Velvet Bean
(*Anticarsia gemmatalis*)



Key Features:

- No black spots on side (1)
- 4 abdominal prolegs (2)
- No black thoracic legs
- 'V' shaped legs on back (3)

Notes on VBC:
Pale head capsule and body are typically green with yellow or white stripes down its length (VBC can also be black/brownish). Move violently when disturbed. 4 pairs of prolegs last pair of prolegs project backward forming a 'V' shape. Can be confused with soybean looper but soybean looper only has 2 pairs of prolegs. Voracious defoliators but relatively easy to kill.

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