

Tobacco Hornworm

Manduca sexta

Family: Sphingidae

Size: 4 1/8" to 4 3/4" Moth Wingspan
(10.5-12 cm)

Range: Canada, eastern US, and into Mexico



Often mistakenly referred to as its cousin the Tomato Hornworm, the Tobacco hornworm has many similarities but crucial differences. *Manduca sexta* (often called the Carolina Sphinx moth) refers to the moth of this species having 6 pairs of yellow spots on their abdomen. The tobacco hornworm has a red "horn", while the tomato hornworm has a blue/black "horn." The Tomato hornworm often is found being parasitized by small wasps species, who form cocoons attached to the worm's body (see image). The moths fly in a variety of habitats, including tobacco fields and gardens from spring through fall. The larvae (worm) feed on crops such as the ones its name suggests, while the moth strictly feeds on nectar at dusk from honeysuckles and petunias.

More Information: http://go.ncsu.edu/tobacco_hornworm

Reference:

Evans, Arthur V., (2008). *National Wildlife Federation Field Guide to Insects and Spiders of North America*. Andrew Stewart Publishing ed. Pg. 331

Taylor Jones

Extension Agent, Consumer Horticulture
3309 Burlington Road, Greensboro, NC 27405
taylor_jones@ncsu.edu 336-641-2401

