

Imperial Moth caterpillar

Prepared by
Camille Goodwin, MG 2008

Texas AgriLife Extension Service
Galveston County Office
Dickinson, TX 77539



Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.
The Texas A&M System, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating.



FIG. 1

Type Pest: chewing insect (*Eacles imperialis*)

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

Other Common Names: Imperial Moth

Period of Primary Occurrence: April – October (two generations per year)

Plants Affected:

- Conifers, deciduous trees and shrubs including pine, hickory, sycamore, oak, box elder, maples, and sweet gum

Identifying Characteristics of Insect Pest

- Adults have 5½" wing spans
- Females are larger than males – upper side is yellow with pinkish brown to purple brown patches, bands and cell spots and tiny brown spots scattered overall
- Males have larger patches on the forewings than females
- Caterpillars are solitary feeders and grow to 4" long
- Larvae head is yellow-orange, with four short horns found on the second and third thoracic segments and the last two abdominal segments
- Pupation takes place in underground burrows

Description / Symptoms

- Usually not considered a pest but a single individual can consume large amounts of foliage

Best Management Practices (BMP)

CHEMICAL CONTROL

- None required

Sources:

<http://insects.tamu.edu/salon/2008/categories/macro/jjackman2.cfm>

<http://www.ag.auburn.edu/enpl/bulletins/imperialmoth/imperialmoth.htm>



FIG. 2



FIG. 3



FIG. 4



FIG. 5



FIG. 6



FIG. 7



FIG. 8

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service is implied.

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”