Codling Moth Versus Apple Maggot

Which “worm” is in my apples on the tree?

Codling moth:
- Hole in apple filled with frass
- When cut open, tunnel goes to core
- Fresh holes appear in May/June and again at harvest.

Apple maggot:
- Hole, if present, is empty of frass
- Tunnels may be filled with bacterial rot and meander through the flesh
- Fresh holes appear only at harvest.

Warning: Apple Maggot is a quarantine pest in Eastern WA.

Codling moth damage

Apple maggot damage
Codling Moth Versus Apple Maggot

The immature codling moth is a caterpillar with head, six claw-like legs and a shield behind the head and at the back end. Mature size = 3/4 inch.

Immature apple maggot is a headless, legless maggot with dark mouth hooks at the front end. Mature size = 3/8 inch long.

The codling moth is ½-inch long and first active in May, in July and in late August.

The apple maggot fly is 1/5–inch long and active from late June to September.

Management:

Regularly updated WSU recommendations (chemical and non-chemical) on pest management of codling moth and of apple maggot for homeowners can be found on line at these websites:


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