Serpentine leafminer (Liriomyza huidobrensis) is a leafminer species that has recently arrived in Australia and poses a significant economic threat to Australia’s horticulture industries.

The pest is capable of flight and eggs, larvae and pupae can be spread through the movement of plant material and soil.

It has an egg, larval, pupal and adult stage. Many generations can be produced in one year.

It has a wide host range of plant species which includes potato, broccoli, beet, spinach, peas, beans, and cut flowers.

WHAT DAMAGE DOES IT CAUSE?

Serpentine leafminer damage is primarily caused by larvae feeding under the surface of leaves. Typically, this feeding causes long, narrow spiralling leafmines.

High levels of infestations affect the plant’s ability to photosynthesise, reducing plant growth and crop yields.

Serpentine leafminer can be very difficult to distinguish from the native leafminer species and usually requires specialist diagnostics to confirm.

Visit the AUSVEG YouTube channel to watch an informative video on exotic leafminers: youtube.com/AUSVEG
PUBLIC ADVICE AND REPORTING:

Production nurseries and growers should check their crops regularly for signs of plant pests and disease. If you suspect a serpentine leafminer infestation, report it to the department of primary industries or agriculture in your state or territory. You can do this by phoning the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.

CHEMICAL USE PERMITS (December 2020)

- Abamectin / Various vegetables / Liriomyza spp. suppression only
- Chlorantraniliprole / Spinach & silverbeet / Leafminers (Liriomyza spp.)
- Cyantraniliprole / Various vegetables / Liriomyza spp.
- Cyromazine / Various vegetables / Liriomyza sativae and Liriomyza huidobrensis
- Emamectin / Brassica vegetables / Liriomyza species / Suppression only
- Spinetoram / Snow peas & Sugar snap peas / Liriomyza leafminers
- Spirotetramat / Various vegetables / Liriomyza spp / Suppression only

Please visit www.apvma.gov.au for permit descriptions and usage instructions.

CURRENT SITUATION IN AUSTRALIA:

As of November 2020, there have been confirmed detections of serpentine leafminer in Greater Sydney and Orange, New South Wales and Kalbar, Queensland. There have been no previous detections of serpentine leafminer in Australia.

USEFUL LINKS:

www.ausveg.com.au
www.planthealthaustralia.com.au
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au
www.daf.qld.gov.au

FACTSHEET
Serpentine leafminer

Serpentine leafminer damage to potato

Image credits (in order of appearance):
2. Leafminer lifecycle: Dr. Elia Pirtle, cesar.
5. Serpentine leafminer damage to potato: Dr. Peter Ridland (University of Melbourne).
6. Leafminer cartoon: Dr. Elia Pirtle, cesar