



are also orange colored and of the same size. Closer examination of the eggs will reveal the ladybird eggs to be smooth, whereas the eggs of cabbage white butterfly are with longitudinal ridges.

- ☛ Since the larvae feed in groups they can be easily located and destroyed.
- ☛ In case of serious problems, contact insecticides like Cypermethrin @1 ml in 1 litre of water and Malathion at the rate of 2 ml in 1 litre of water can be sprayed.

Note : Chemical spray is recommended always as the last option and Waiting period of at least 2 weeks shall be maintained

Control Measures

The following measures are recommended for the control of this pest:

- ☛ Grow cabbage as an early crop, as early-grown cabbage is seldom severely injured because it reaches maturity before the imported cabbageworm populations have built up significantly.
- ☛ The adult butterfly is very conspicuous and can be easily seen in the field while laying their eggs. These eggs are easily visible and should be hand picked and destroyed. Care should be taken not to pick the eggs of ladybirds, which

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NPPC



Cabbage white butterfly.
(*Pieris brassicae*)
Ento, leaflet 5

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Pest organism

The adult is a large white butterfly with black tip forewings. Two black spots are present on the upper side of the forewings in the females, while in the males these spots are on the under side of the wings. The caterpillars are about 25 mm when fully grown and are with three longitudinal yellow stripes with many black spots. This insect mainly occurs as pest of Brassica like cabbage, cauliflower, spinach and mustard.



Eggs of cabbage white butterfly



Larva of cabbage white butterfly



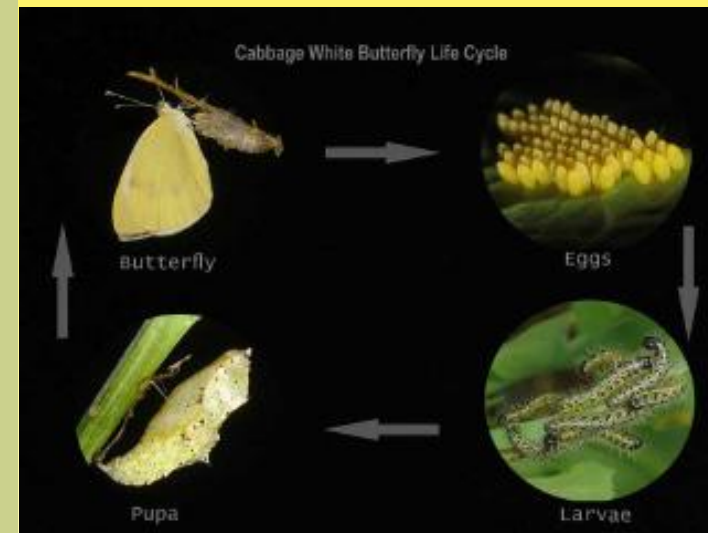
Female cabbage white butterfly



Male cabbage white butterfly

Life cycle

Cabbage white butterfly overwinters in the pupal stage on host plants. Adults emerge in mid-spring and lay eggs singly on the undersides of outer leaves. Eggs hatch in 4 to 8 days and larvae mature in two to three weeks, then pupate on the host plant. The development from egg to adult requires 3 to 6 weeks. Adults emerge in one to two weeks, mate, and lay eggs for another generation. There are 3 to 5 generations each year.



Damage symptoms

The orange coloured eggs are laid in groups on the under side of the host plant leaves. The caterpillars of this insect feed in groups on the under side of the leaves. The aggregation feeding habit of these caterpillars can completely defoliate an individual plant leaving only the tough midrib and the veins in leaves.