

Pest Alert: *Spodoptera frugiperda*



Fig. 1. *Spodoptera frugiperda* larva © John C. French Sr., Retired, Universities: Auburn, GA, Clemson and U of MO, Bugwood.org



Fig. 2. Adult in a natural resting position © Mark Dreiling, Bugwood.org

- **Fall armyworm**, *Spodoptera frugiperda*, is native to North and South America, and is found throughout both continents.
- It can only survive the **winter in tropical/subtropical areas**, but **migrates very long distances to temperate areas in the summer**.
- *Spodoptera frugiperda* was detected in Africa for the first time in 2016, where it is still causing **major impacts to a number of crops**. It has now spread across the continent, and can be found through much of sub-Saharan Africa, from the east coast, to the west coast and south (including South Africa). *Spodoptera frugiperda* has also spread across India and much of South East Asia into Australasia and Australia.
- The larvae prefer to feed on **grasses** and **cereals**, and cause high levels of damage on crops such as **maize**. However, they will also feed on a wide range of other plants and could be a potential pest of **glasshouse crops in the UK**.

If you suspect the presence of the pest, please inform the relevant authority (see over for details).

For England and Wales, contact your local APHA Plant Health and Seeds Inspector, or the PHSI headquarters, in York:

Tel: 0300 1000 313 (please select option 3 when calling)

Email: planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk

Web: <https://www.gov.uk/plant-health-controls>

For Scotland, contact the Scottish Government's Horticulture and Marketing Unit:

Email: hort.marketing@gov.scot

Web: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/plant/PlantHealth>

For Northern Ireland, contact DAERA Plant Health Inspection Branch:

Tel: 0300 200 7847

Email: planthealth@daera-ni.gov.uk

Web: www.daera-ni.gov.uk