

## Pest Alert: *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*



**Fig. 1.** False codling moth caterpillars (dead, marked with arrows) inside a cut-open grape © Fera Science Ltd



**Fig. 2.** False codling moth caterpillar (marked with arrow) inside a cut-open chilli pepper © Fera Science Ltd

- **False codling moth**, *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*, is a pest of many crops including **peppers, roses and oranges**. It feeds inside the fruit, and **often the feeding damage leads to further fungal and bacterial rot**.
- It is native to sub-Saharan Africa, and is also found in Israel.
- The UK has had hundreds of findings of this pest in the past few years on chilli pepper from various countries in Africa. It has also recently been found inside grapes.
- False codling moth **poses a risk to the UK if it were to be introduced to a glasshouse**: there have been two outbreaks (now eradicated) of this pest in the Netherlands under protected cultivation (2009).

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:planthealth@daera-ni.gov.uk)

Web: [www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)