



# Have you seen the Vegetable Leafminer?

## The Diet

Many plants are affected, including most vegetables, ornamental plants, such as snap dragon and petunia, most allium species, including onions and garlic.

## The Damage

The major damage is caused by larvae tunnelling inside the leaf resulting in silvery, spiralling tracks that become wider over time.

Damage may be confused with that of the Cabbage Leafminer or Chrysanthemum Leafminer. You are likely to be alerted to VLM if extensive damage is observed on a diversity of plants.



Damage on tomato. Picture credit: Northern Australian Quarantine Strategy

## The Pest

Distribution: Torres Strait and Cape York Peninsula.

Size: 1-2 mm in length.

Markings: Yellow cuticle on the head, upper body, and abdomen.

Life stages: Larvae, pupae, and adult.



Picture credit: Dr Elia Pirtle, cesar

## The Challenge

Airports, seaports, and tourism hotspots are high risk entry points for exotic pests.



Australia is renowned for producing high quality fresh produce. To keep it that way, growers need to stay vigilant about biosecurity. When we find a new pest in Australia, the economic damage to our farms can be catastrophic.

We can experience trade bans, production losses and quarantine. This means that our fresh produce doesn't reach your table. Everyone loses!

As a grower, I am asking you to help us keep our production zones free from a damaging new pest - the Vegetable Leafminer.

Bill Bulmer - AUSVEG Chairman and vegetable grower

We need your help to keep our growing regions free of exotic pests.

All Australians have a biosecurity responsibility.

Suspect detections should be reported to the **Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.**

For more information contact AUSVEG at [info@ausveg.com.au](mailto:info@ausveg.com.au) or 03 9882 0277.