

Chil partellus

Spotted Stem Borer

**NOT KNOWN TO
OCCUR IN IDAHO**



Photo by CAPS, USDA APHIS PPO

HOSTS

The spotted stem borer attacks several grass species, both cultivated and wild. Cultivated crop hosts include maize, sorghum, pearl millet, rice and sugarcane.

LIFE HISTORY

Eggs: are flat and oval (scale-like), creamy-white, about 0.8mm long, laid in overlapping batches of 10-80 eggs on the upper and underside leaf surfaces, mainly near the midribs.

Larvae: Immature larvae are yellowish, spotted, and 1-2 mm in length. Mature larvae are crystalline and spotted with black warts on each body segment. They have four purple/brown longitudinal stripes on the back of the body, 20-25 mm in length, and have a prominent reddish-brown head.

Pupa: are up to 15 mm long, slender, shiny and light yellow-brown to dark red-brown in colour. Adults emerge 5 to 12 days after pupation.

Adult: Adult moths are relatively small moths with wing lengths ranging from 7 to 17 mm and a wingspan of 20 to 25 mm. The fore wings are dull, generally light yellow-brown with some darker scale patterns. The hind wings are white. Adults emerge from pupae in the late afternoon or early evening. They are active at night and rest on plants and plant debris during the day. They are seldom seen, unless disturbed.

DAMAGE

Feeding in the whorl and midribs of leaves can lead to 'dead heart', which can terminate plant growth and development or result in excessive tillers that are barren. Losses are also incurred due to loss of photosynthetic leaf area caused by larval feeding. Boring in the stem can result in lodging. Damage is most critical if infestation results in dead heart or excessive crop lodging. Plants with dead heart are unlikely to produce ears. Lodging will decrease harvest.



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