

#### Section IV

Root-feeding Maggots, Soil Arthropods, and other problems.

##### Cutworm Control in Processed Beets

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Three species of cutworms infest and can damage table beets. The variegated cutworm (*Peridroma saucia* Hübner) and bertha armyworm (*Mamestra configurata* Walker) feed on beet leaves and can interfere with harvest if too much foliage is removed. We found that egg deposition by both species closely followed peak pheromone trap catch, indicating that applications for these species when necessary. The black cutworm (*Agrotis ipsilon* Hufnagel) severs beet seedlings below the soil surface and feeds directly on the root of older plants. Dollar losses result to both grower and processor. This species overwinters in the larval stage and is present in fields prior to cultivation. Pheromone traps were not useful in predicting larval infestations of the black cutworm. Consequently, pre-plant larval sampling will be researched in 1988 to predict and evaluate black cutworm infestations.