



CAES

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Dana Crandall
Department of Entomology
The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
123 Huntington Street
New Haven, CT 06511

Phone: (203) 974-8481

Fax: (203) 974-8502

Email: Dana.Crandall@ct.gov

Website: <https://portal.ct.gov/caes>

CHRISTMAS BERRY WEBWORM (*Cryptoblabes gnidiella*)



The Christmas Berry Webworm is an invasive moth native to the Mediterranean region, which poses a threat to citrus and grape, but is also of concern for orchard crops including plum, peach and apple. The Christmas Berry Webworm is not a serious threat; however, it has been intercepted at various United States entry ports over 450 times on *Citrus* sp. plant material.

The primary source of fruit damage is due to the young larvae that penetrate the skin of the fruit after hatching which can lead to yellowing and premature fruit drop. Larvae actively feed from August through October. Adults are attracted to the honeydew excreted by mealybugs which are concurrent pests. Additionally, the growth of mold on injured fruit may be another indicative symptom of the Christmas Berry Webworm.



Adults are grayish-brown with varying red scales on the forewings; the average wingspan is 11-20 mm. Females lay eggs in small clusters on fruit and hatch within two weeks depending on climate. Larvae are reddish-brown with dark longitudinal stripes and measure 12 mm at larval maturity.

The primary trapping method is a pheromone lure wing trap.