

# BEAN LEAFROLLER

The bean leafroller is a common late summer pest of beans in Florida. It is especially common in home gardens. If leaves of the bean plant are rolled or leaf edges look ragged, check for bean leafroller larvae. The bean leafroller can complete its life cycle in about 30 days. It breeds in southern Florida throughout the year but is relatively infrequent in northern Florida until June. It only becomes abundant in September and October.



DAMAGE

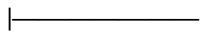


CATERPILLAR / LARVA

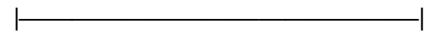


ADULT

SIZE



Up to an inch



Up to 2 inches

The bean leafroller feeds on legume crops such as cowpea, lima bean, pea, snap bean and soybean, but it can also be found on other crops. The larvae/caterpillars feed only on the leaf tissue. Initially, the larva cuts a small, triangular patch at the edge of the leaf, folds over the flap, and lives inside this shelter. The caterpillars feed at night.

In Florida, parasitic flies have been found inside caterpillars, and caterpillars are preyed upon by wasps and stink bugs. Also, a virus (nuclear polyhedrosis) infects and kills up to 50 percent of the caterpillars late in the season when they are most numerous. The microbial insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) currently is not recommended for this pest. It should be remembered that beans can tolerate a 30 percent leaf loss without a yield reduction. Four caterpillars must complete their development on a "typical" bean plant to inflict a significant level of damage that will affect bean yield.

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<http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu/veg/bean/beanleaf.htm>