



Figure 9: False chinch bug. Sometimes found contaminating lettuce in large numbers hiding between the leaves, and will sometimes hide under the cap leaf. It will also hide under clods and other debris. It moves into lettuce from wild mustards and from cole crops. Extremely large numbers of this pest are often found in brassica seed fields near harvest.



Figure 10: Lygus bug. More commonly associated with cotton, safflower and alfalfa, but will move into lettuce from other nearby host crops. It is usually found hiding between the leaves, and sometimes under the cap leaf.



Figure 11: Potato leafhopper. Many species of leafhopper can be found contaminating lettuce between the leaves, and sometimes under the cap leaf. They move into lettuce from weedy areas, ditches and alfalfa.



Figure 12: Threecornered alfalfa hopper. Commonly disperses into lettuce from recently cut alfalfa. May be found on lettuce hiding between the leaves and sometimes under the cap leaf.

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COMMON INSECT CONTAMINANTS FOUND IN ARIZONA LETTUCE

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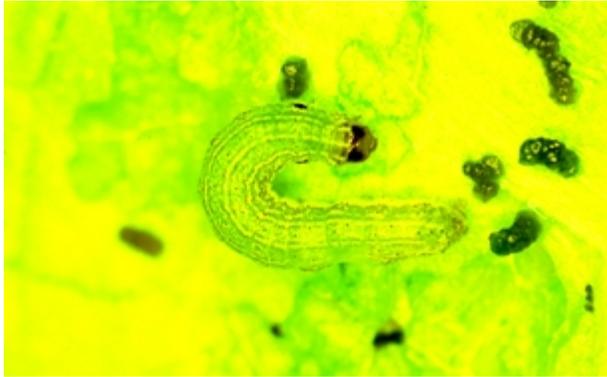


Figure 1: Lepidopterous larva (beet armyworm) with feces. Several species of lepidopterous pests can be found infesting lettuce. The worm damages the plant by feeding. The worm itself and its feces are serious contaminants.



Figure 2: Striped flea beetle. This insect will often move into lettuce from nearby Sudan grass or weedy ditches. They will feed on lettuce and cause damage, and the adults can be contaminants.



Figure 3: Leafminer fly. Not usually considered a contaminant, but mining by immatures causes cosmetic maladies.



Figure 4: Leafminer mine. Mines appear as serpentine white lines containing the maggot. Once fully developed, it will cut out of the leaf to pupate in the soil or between the leaves. Secondary fungal or bacterial infections are often associated with these mines post-harvest.



Figure 5: Adult western flower thrips. This insect is very small, the adults have a darkened abdomen. The nymphs are smaller, have no wings, and are completely yellow. Usually found on underside of leaves, and may be found under cap leaf.



Figure 6: Silver spotting caused by thrips feeding. This damage is found primarily on the greener tissue on the underside of the leaves.



Figure 7: Brown spotting of basal leaf portion caused by thrips feeding. This type of spotting is usually associated with older leaves, most of which will probably be trimmed at harvest.



Figure 8: Winged adult aphid with young. Several species of aphids can be found infesting lettuce. Adults may or may not have wings. They are usually found on the underside of lower leaves, but may also be found on the head or under the cap leaf.