



Golden Twin Spot Moth

Chrysodeixis chalcites

The Golden Twin Spot moth is originally from some parts of southern Europe, Mediterranean, and the Middle East to Africa. This pest was found in recent years (2013) in Ontario, Canada but not in the United States. It is uncertain if the moth overwinters in southwestern Ontario or further south and then migrates during spring. It has been intercepted in the United States during imported cargo and plant inspections but moths are not established. Farms will encounter the highest impact if this moth does become established in the U.S. It is considered one of the most serious moth pests in many countries where it is established.



Adult moth. Photo by Perry Hampson



Photo of larva by Steve Hatch

Description:

The eggs are a shiny pearly white to pale green and are dome-shaped. They can be found singularly or in small clusters up to 3 eggs on the top or underside of a leaf. Larvae are a pale green with black and white speckles along with white lines seen lengthwise down the body. Older larvae can be found in rolled up leaves stuck together with silken threads. Pupation usually occurs on the underside of a leaf in a silken cocoon or in the soil, depending on the climatic conditions. Adults are semi-nocturnal and avoid strong sunlight. Wings have a golden or bronze color with two oval silver or white spots on the forewings. Sometimes these spots can blend in together uniting them into one shape.

Damage:

Golden Twin Spot larvae are persistent pests to soybeans, tomatoes, and potatoes, but it can be found on various other species of plants. As the larvae develops, the damage on the plants increase by skeletonizing or eating the whole leaf except for the midrib or larger veins. When consuming legume plants, the caterpillars may bore into the pods causing them to split and damage the vegetable. This pest causes severe damage to tomato plants by consuming their leaves and vegetative parts causing a decrease in fruit and potentially killing the plant itself from stress.

Photos:

Hampson, Perry. [Golden Twin-spot *Chrysodeixis chalcites*](http://ukmoths.org.uk/show.php?id=1638). UK Moths. Adult moth taken in Walsham, Norfolk.

<http://ukmoths.org.uk/show.php?id=1638>

Hatch, Steve. [Golden Twin-spot *Chrysodeixis chalcites*](http://ukmoths.org.uk/show.php?id=3959). UK Moths. Larva, reared from wild-caught female, Ipswich, Suffolk.

<http://ukmoths.org.uk/show.php?id=3959>

Information:

Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey. [Solanaceous Hosts Commodity-based Survey](https://caps.ceris.purdue.edu/node/579). Accessed April 2015. <https://caps.ceris.purdue.edu/node/579>