

Insect pests of leaves and shoots

Blueberry tip borer

Adult moths of this sporadic pest emerge after bloom and lay single, translucent eggs on succulent shoots. The young larvae tunnel into the shoot near the eggs, and feed inside. A small pinhole can be seen where the larva entered the stem. The internal feeding causes the stem to wilt and the leaves to dry up from the tips.



Drying terminal leaves indicate tip borer injury.

Monitoring for the start of this symptom can be used to identify the egg laying period. Larvae continue developing into the fall and pupate inside the stem. Standard fruitworm controls usually prevent tip borer infestation; pruning infested shoots can help suppress populations.