

# Almond Moth

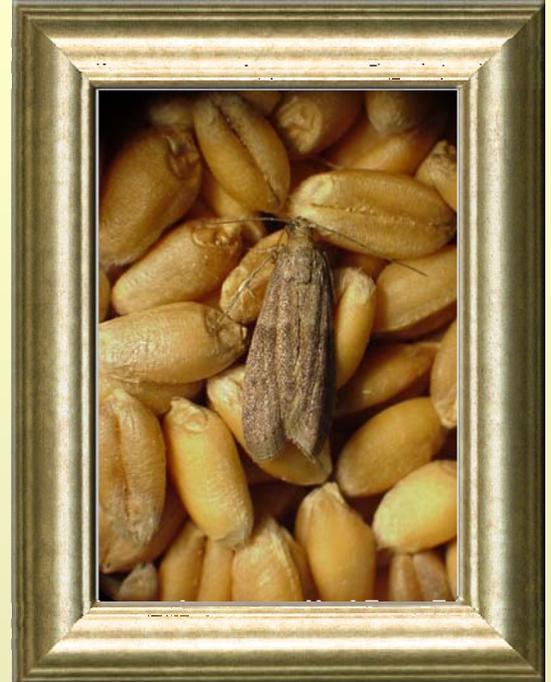
*Ephestia cautella*

## Identification

<b>Size</b> (Actual Size) 	1/2 inch in length (13mm) to 3/4 inch (20 mm), with a wingspread of about 3/4 inch (20 mm)
<b>Color - Adult</b>	Newly emerged adults have a bi-colored wing. The outer half of the wing is covered with gray/brown colored scales while the top portion is a dark tan color.
<b>Color - Larva</b>	The larva is 1/2 inch (13 mm) and have a coloring of a dirty white with brown or purple dots on its back.

## General Information

Almond moths are common in warehouses that provide storage for food product. This cosmopolitan moth will feed on many species of nut, such as almonds, walnuts, peanuts, hazelnuts and many more. They will also feed on dried fruit, figs, dates, cocoa beans, seeds and grains. Although they have an attraction for the same pheromone as indianmeal moth, they will be even more readily attracted to the pheromone lures specifically designed for almond moths.



Almond moth adult



## Life History, Food & Signs of Infestation

<b>Insect Life Cycle Information</b>	Generally, developmental time for the almond moth from egg to adult in room temperature with a good food source is approximately 35 days. Mating and egg laying begins almost immediately after adults emerge from the pupa (cocoon). Adult moths do not feed and die within 7 – 10 days. Female moths can lay from 200 – 400 small, pinhead-sized, white eggs on or near the dried food source that they will infest.
<b>Food &amp; Feeding Habits</b>	Almond moth larvae will feed on grains, seeds, tree nuts, cereals, dried fruits, powdered milk, bird seed, dried pet foods and numerous other dry food goods. The larvae prefer broken grains to whole grains. It prefers coarser grades of flour as well as graham flour and corn meal.
<b>Signs of Infestation</b>	Look for the adult moths flying around areas where nuts, dried foods, pet food or bird seed is stored. The larvae will often be found beneath the protective layer of webbing, feeding vigorously. The larvae will be remain on the food product until it is ready to pupate. It will often crawl up to the joint of the ceiling and the wall to make its cocoon. Carefully inspect food containers, boxes and bags containing nuts and dried food goods looking for adult moths, larvae, or the tell-tale cocoons in the lips of bags or the top corners of boxes.



Almond moth larvae  
Photo credit: USDA