
Netherlands Plant Protection Service

Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
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agriculture, nature
and food quality

PEST REPORT

Finding of *Helicoverpa armigera* Hübner on *Phaseolus vulgaris* (outdoors)

As part of routine monitoring surveillance one caterpillar (L3) of *H. armigera* was found in a bean field (*P. vulgaris*) in the province of Zuid-Holland, nearby Oude-Tonge. Shortly after the finding, a follow-up survey was conducted in a radius of one kilometre around the location, whereby a total of 14 fields and two greenhouses with host plants have been checked visually. No more caterpillars were found during this survey. Phytosanitary measures have been applied for the infested field by means of flail mower (first step), rotary cultivator (second step) and early ploughing (third step). All measures were taken under supervision of the Plant Protection Service.

Helicoverpa armigera is a harmful organism for the European Community (Annex II A section I). The pest is on the A2 EPPO list (version 2005-09).

Officially declared pest status

Absent, pest eradicated. Surveillance confirms that the pest has not established.

Impact and phytosanitary risk

No visible damage to the plants could be observed on the bean field, but this may be attributed to the low level of pest incidence. *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hübner) belongs to the family Noctuidae, and is widely distributed in the Old World, in the tropics and subtropics and across Asia and Australia, from the Pacific Islands and to New Zealand. The species is also present in the Mediterranean region and parts of the Middle East. In recent years *H. armigera* has been intercepted many times during import inspection, mainly on cut flowers and vegetables. The species is known to be extremely polyphagous, with a host range covering hundreds of host plant species, including edible crops and ornamentals. Due to climatic conditions in The Netherlands, it is presumed that this species is not capable to survive the winter in outdoor situations.

Detection and inspection methods

The pest was detected during regular phytosanitary controls carried out by the Netherlands Plant Protection Service.

Reference:

NPPO of the Netherlands