

New World Screwworm

Identification and Prevention



Adult flies are about the size of a common housefly

Flies

Red eyes

Shorter center stripe

Metallic blue-green body

Yellow-orange face



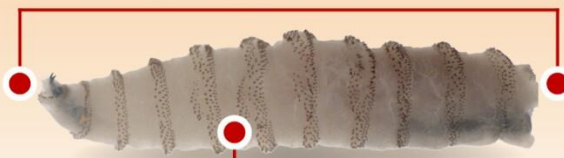
IDENTIFY NEW WORLD SCREWORM

Larvae



Pale with dark spine bands

Tapered at both ends



Dark rear tracheae

Fully grown larvae vary in size (6.5-17mm long)



Larvae burrow into and feed on the living tissue of warm-blooded animals

[USDA-APHIS screwworm.gov](https://www.usda-aphis.gov/screwworm)

What to do

New World screwworm can infest wounds and natural body openings of livestock, pets, wildlife, birds, and people. Newborn animals are especially vulnerable due to umbilical cord exposure, and infestation of newborns is almost always fatal. More information: [screwworm.gov](https://www.screwworm.gov).

Larvae cause extensive damage by tearing host tissue with sharp mouth hooks.



Credit: Carlos D. Martinez, UA Entomology

- New World screwworm (NWS) infestations are serious. Contact your vet or doctor if you suspect an infestation of NWS.
- Recognize signs of NWS in pets and livestock.
- Never attempt to treat an active infestation, contact a vet or doctor immediately.
- Protect pets and livestock from wound-causing parasites and sharp objects.