

# CABBAGE WORMS

**C**abbage worms are green caterpillars with two white lines down their back. They measure up to 1.5 inches in length. They are found primarily on members of the cabbage family (broccoli, cabbage, kale, collards, etc.). Cabbage worms will chew large holes in the leaves of the plant and may destroy the entire plant if it is young enough.

Cabbage worms will leave small ball-shaped green droppings on or around your plants, making this a tell-tale sign that they are present in your garden.

If you discover a cabbage worm invasion in your garden, Growing Places recommends that you take the following steps:

1. Hand pick the cabbage worms and kill them (either by squishing them or drowning them in salty or soapy water).
2. For a more thorough form of management, spray the infested area with BTK, a naturally-occurring bacteria.

*Note:* After harvesting your produce, soak them in a salt water bath for 15 minutes. This will cause the caterpillars to float to the top. After, rinse your produce with fresh water.



*Clockwise from top: Cabbage worm damage on leaf, cabbage worms for scale, cabbage worm on leaf*

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Garden Insects of North America: The Ultimate Guide to Backyard Bugs | Whitney Crenshaw

The Organic Gardener's Handbook of Natural Pest and Disease Control | Jeff Ball