Larvae identification chart

9 larvae with a photo, the one feature that separates each, and its size. Free to reuse with a link to orvik.app/insects/larvae-identification-chart/

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Cabbage white caterpillar

Pieris rapae

Three pairs of true legs at the front plus fleshy prolegs on the abdomen; velvety green.

`Size: 12–25 mm`



Spongy moth caterpillar

Lymantria dispar

A hairy moth caterpillar: true legs plus up to five pairs of prolegs with tiny hooks.

`Size: 30–70 mm`



White grub (scarab beetle larva)

Scarabaeidae

C-shaped, stout and white; three pairs of legs and no prolegs.

`Size: 10–50 mm`



Wireworm (click beetle larva)

Elateridae

Slender, elongate and stiff; three pairs of short legs and no prolegs.

`Size: 5–25 mm`



House fly maggot

Musca domestica

Legless, tapered and creamy-white, with no visible head.

`Size: 6–12 mm`



Blow fly maggot

Calliphoridae

Legless and blunt at the rear, where the breathing spiracles sit.

`Size: up to 12–17 mm`



Flea larva

Siphonaptera

Pale and worm-like with fine bristles; it cannot jump, unlike the adult.

`Size: 2–5 mm`



Ladybird larva

Coccinellidae

Elongated and alligator-like, dark with orange markings; hunts aphids.

`Size: 4–12 mm`



Clothes moth larva

Tineola bisselliella

Cream to pale brown, living in silken tunnels or cases on wool and silk.

`Size: 6–12 mm`

Photo credits. Every photo was checked against the entry before use; 9 of 9 entries have one.

1. Cabbage white caterpillar — Michael Berardozzi, CC BY 4.0, GBIF
2. Spongy moth caterpillar — Michel Langeveld, CC BY 4.0, GBIF
3. White grub (scarab beetle larva) — Arnim Littek, CC BY 4.0, GBIF
4. Wireworm (click beetle larva) — olmagon, CC BY 4.0, GBIF
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