

# What is Fall Armyworm and why is it a threat ?



Fall Armyworm is a pest that feeds on

**80**  
types

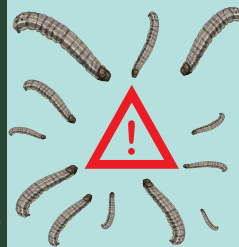


of crops and plants, but prefers maize.

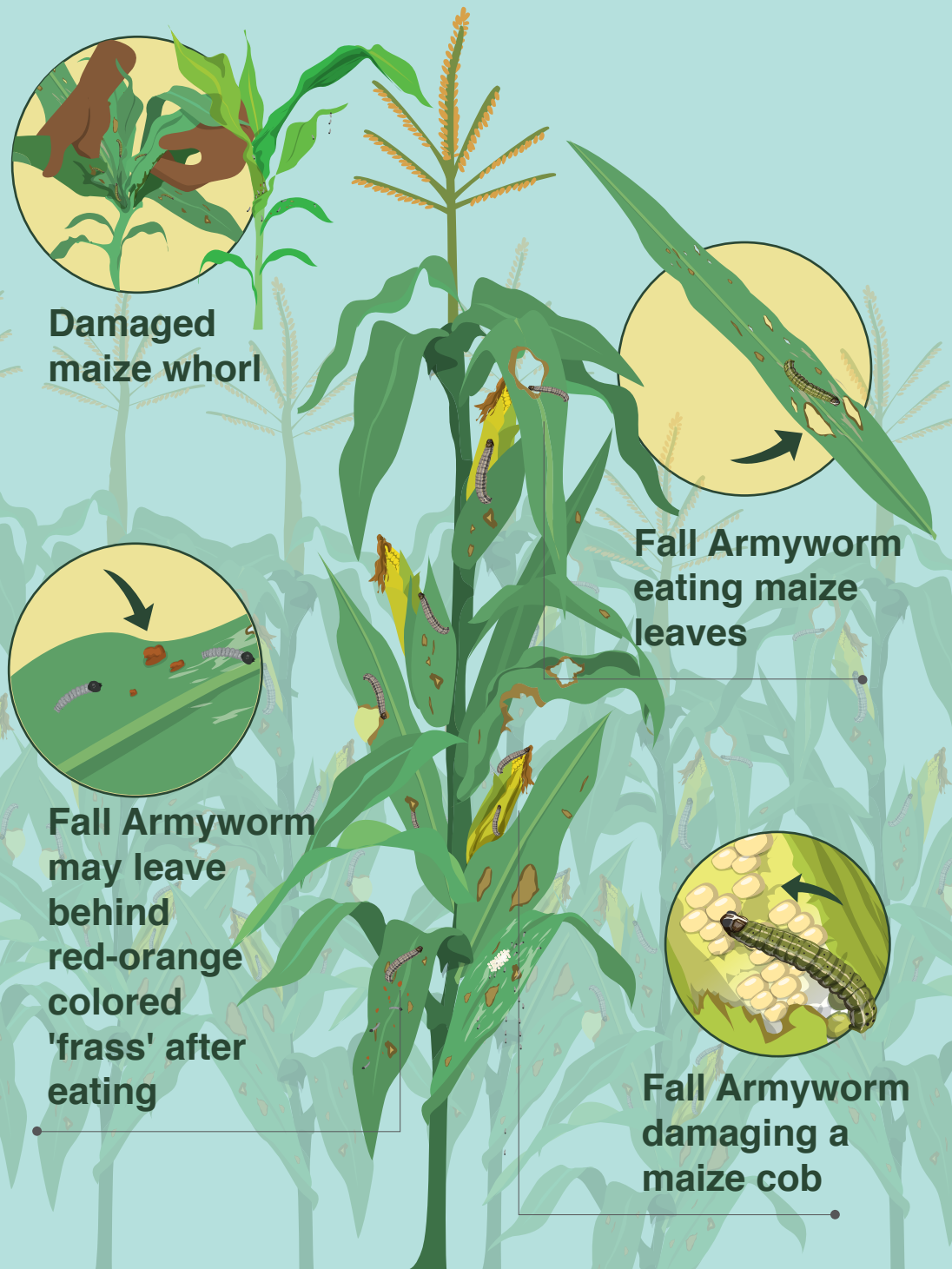


Fall Armyworm was found for the first time in Asia in 2018 in India.

Knowing how to identify Fall Armyworm is key to the fight against this pest. This guide provides simple information on how you can identify Fall Armyworm at different ages.



It has now spread throughout many parts of South Asia. Scientists also expect that this pest will continue to spread throughout much of tropical Asia.



**Damaged maize whorl**

**Fall Armyworm eating maize leaves**

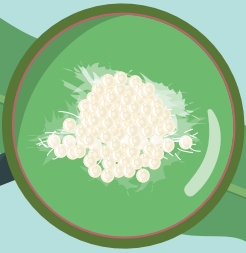
**Fall Armyworm may leave behind red-orange colored 'frass' after eating**

**Fall Armyworm damaging a maize cob**

# How can I identify Fall Armyworm?

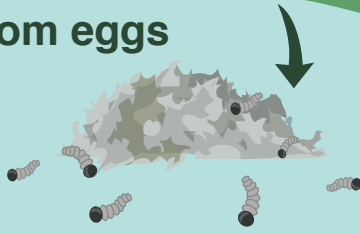
## Egg masses

Egg masses are very small and white, and are often found on the underside of leaves.



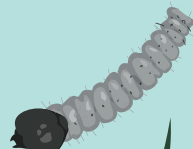
## Hatching from eggs

When the eggs are ready to hatch, they are a similar color as cigarette ash.

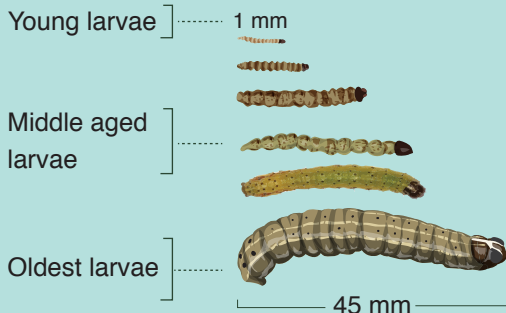


## Young Fall Armyworms

Hundreds of small Fall Armyworms with black heads will crawl out of hatched egg masses.



## Growing Fall Armyworm



## Older Fall Armyworm

Older Fall Armyworms can have a white mark on their heads

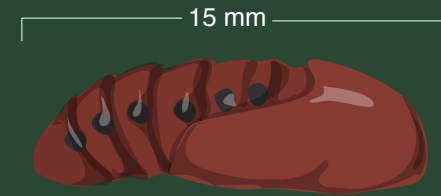


End of adult larvae body

Head

They also have **four large dots** in a square on the end of their body.

## Pupae are red-brown color



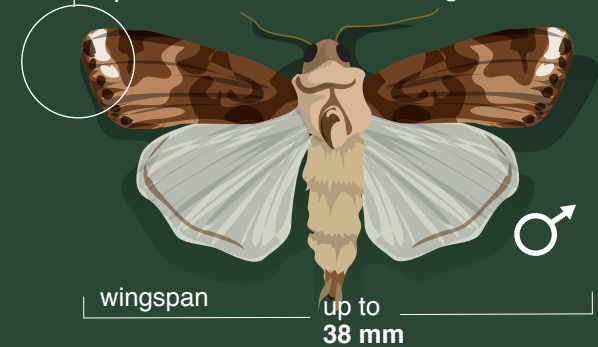
Red - brown colored Fall Armyworm pupae can be found in the soil before Fall Armyworm turns into an adult.

You may also find cocoons 2 to 8 cm deep in the soil that look like this.



## Adult moth

Adult male moths have a white spot at the end of their wings.



Female moths are less colorful and do not have a white stripe on their wings



The Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia (CSISA) was established in 2009. The project is led by the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) and implemented jointly with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). The content and opinions in this infographic do not necessarily reflect the views of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, USAID, or the United States Government, and shall not be used for advertising or product endorsement purposes. Correct citation: Krupnik, T.J. and Dhungana, H. (2019) What is Fall Armyworm and why is it a threat? International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center. Dhaka, Bangladesh.