

# OILSEED FIELD HEROES

## ATTACK!

### GET TO KNOW THE HEROES AND VILLAINS IN YOUR OILSEEDS.

#### BERTHA ARMYWORM

Aside from feeding on leaves, bertha armyworm larvae may debark canola pods, eat the seeds inside or consume them entirely. Mature larvae can be either black, brown or green with a light brown head and a yellowish-orange stripe along each side.



Photo: cc by J. Gavloski



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#### BANCHUS FLAVESCENS

*Banchus flavescens* is a species of ichneumonid wasp that is an internal parasitoid of bertha armyworm. Adults are relatively large, orange wasps, and larvae live inside caterpillars.

#### TACHINID FLY (*Athrycia cineria*)

Tachinid flies are internal parasitoids. This Field Hero is a native parasite of bertha armyworm. Tachinid flies usually look like house flies, but are larger and the abdomen is often covered in bristles. You may see their eggs on the body of the caterpillars.



#### DIAMONDBACK MOTH

Diamondback moth larvae are narrow, green caterpillars that will feed on leaves, buds, flowers or pods of canola. Larvae will wiggle backwards and drop off the plant, dangling from a silken thread, when disturbed.



Photo: cc by J. Gavloski



#### DIADEGMA INSULARE

*Diadegma insulare* is an important Field Hero that attacks the larval diamondback moth. The adult parasitoid is a small (6 mm) black wasp with dark-brown and yellow striped legs.

#### DAMSEL BUG

This Field Hero is a natural enemy of diamondback moths. Both adults and nymphs are aggressive predators. They grasp their prey and pierce the body, injecting toxic saliva that causes paralysis.



#### LYGUS BUG

Lygus bugs inject saliva then suck up plant juices from buds, flowers and young seeds on canola and many other plants. Feeding on young seed can cause economic damage. Young stages are green, while adults have a distinctive yellow triangle or "V" mark on their back.



#### PERISTENUS DIGONEUTIS

Lygus bugs are attacked by several species of egg and nymphal parasitoids. These Field Heroes include the braconids *Peristinus pallipes* and *P. digoneutis*.

Photo: cc by Scott Bauer, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org

#### FLEA BEETLE

Flea beetles are one of the most damaging pests in canola. Parasitoids such as *Microctonus* can attack flea beetles, but research has not yet shown that beneficial insects are effective regulators of flea beetle populations.



Photo: cc by Tyler Wist



### THINK BENEFICIALS BEFORE YOU SPRAY

- Scout for pests and predators
- Only spray when economic thresholds are exceeded
- Use selective insecticides, where possible
- Consult the label for best time to spray
- Rotate crops
- Maintain habitat for beneficial insects