

# Pest Profile



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**Common Name:** Iris Borer

**Scientific Name:** *Macronoctua onusta*

**Order and Family:** Lepidoptera, Noctuidae

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	2mm	Small, flat, circular, greenish white to lavender color
Larva/Nymph	50mm	Pink in color with distinct brown head. Black spots on the sides, 1-2 per segment
Adult	38-50mm	Medium sized moth with purplish brown head and forewings, hind wings are yellowish. Forewings have zigzag pattern.
Pupa (if applicable)	25-38mm	Dark brown to nearly black and very shiny

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Chewing

**Host plant/s:** Iris (bearded, Japanese, blue flag, and Belamcanda)

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Larvae feed on leaves and rhizomes of the Iris plant; hollowed out areas are susceptible to bacterial soft rot.

**References:**

Cranshaw, W. (2004). *Garden insects of North America: The ultimate guide to backyard bugs*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Dellinger, T. A., & Day, E. (2015). Iris Borer: Lepidoptera: Noctuidae, *Macronoctua onusta* (Grote). Retrieved from <http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/ENTO/ENTO-140/ENTO-140-pdf.pdf>.