

The Backyard Orchard – Citrus– Module 4.2 – Citrus Arthropods: Leafminer & Orange Dog

LSU AgCenter Backyard Orchard
Certificate Course



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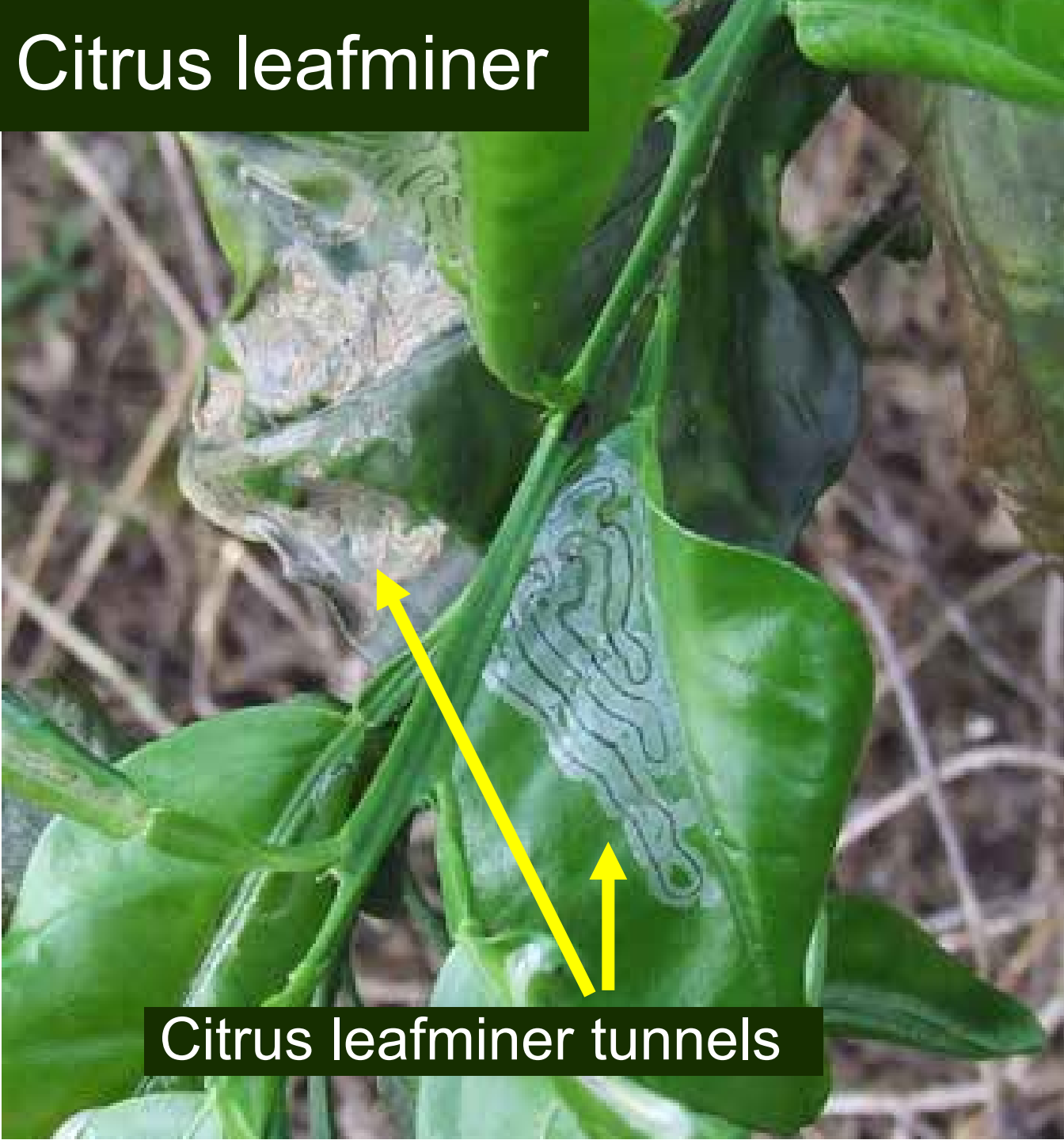
Citrus leafminer

- *Phyllocnistis citrella*
- Citrus leafminer affects the foliage of each flush of growth.
- The moths deposit their eggs on the underside of the foliage.
- Larvae emerge and tunnel into the leaf.
- They create winding tunnels between the upper and lower surfaces as they develop and feed.
- At maturity, the larvae move to the edge of the leaf, causing it to curl and pupate inside the curled area.
- Larval stage lasts from 5-20 days and pupation lasts 6-22 days.
- Adult females emerge in the morning and lay their eggs at night.
- Total development time takes from 13-52 days, depending on weather and temperature.

Citrus leafminer

- Adults are short lived.
- There are multiple generations each year, which can occur every three weeks, depending on the environmental conditions.
- Citrus leafminer creates injury on citrus leaves which helps citrus canker bacterium to spread.
- *Remember, citrus leafminer does not transmit citrus canker bacterium.*
- Citrus leafminer injury is cosmetic and does not do any harm to mature established trees. New, young trees may suffer from leafminer injury.
- Twigs heavily affected by leafminer should be pruned in spring.
- Insecticide spinosad may be used to manage leafminer.
- Multiple applications at 7-14 day intervals during active growing season.
- Follow the label for dose and application frequency.

Citrus leafminer



Citrus leafminer tunnels

Citrus canker lesions highly concentrated in the leafminer injured area



Giant swallowtail/Orange-dog caterpillar

- *Papilio cresphontes*
- The orange-dog caterpillar often is a pest of young trees.
- One or two of these caterpillars can completely strip a young tree of its foliage.
- The larva look like bird droppings on the foliage and stems when small.
- When disturbed, they evert a pair of orange glands from the base of the head. This is caused by blood pressure, and these hornlike glands have a very pungent odor.
- The odor is used as a defense mechanism against predators.
- The adult butterfly is called the giant swallowtail.
- It is black with a series of yellow spots that form bands in both the fore and hind wings.

Giant swallowtail



Orange dog caterpillar

Hornlike glands

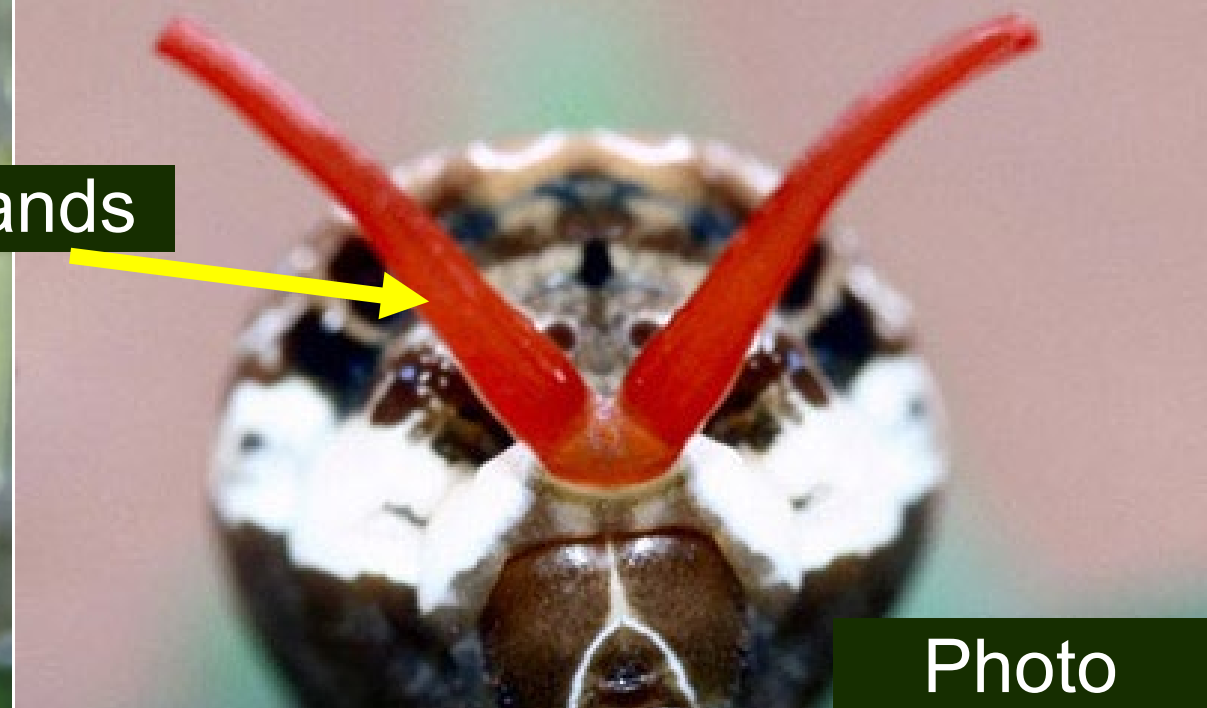


Photo
credit: UF



Giant swallowtail/Orange-dog caterpillar

Management

- Damage to older trees is extremely rare requiring no control measures.
- On young trees, handpick the caterpillars and move them to a larger citrus tree. Check with a neighbor.
- The Giant Swallowtail is a beautiful beneficial insect so make every effort to save it.



Please post all your questions and results to the message board that was emailed to you.

