The Wax Moth

A (somewhat) Friendly Pest?

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Various Names

• Greater Wax Moth (GWM)
  – *Galleria mellonella* (L)

• Lesser Wax Moth (LWM)
  – *Achroia grisella*

• Dried Fruit Moth (Rocky Mountain states and Canada)
  – *Vitula edmandsae serratilineela*

• Others not in the U.S.
Larvae
The Destructive Phase

Greater wax moth larva
Value in the Natural System

- Natural nest degrader
- No disease transmission
- Also other insect and arachnids
- Compost bottom hive litter
- Open cavity for reuse
Permanent Damage to Equipment
Hive Entry
Cocoons and Webbing

Photos: www.omafra.gov.on.ca
Wax Moth Food

• Old combs
  – Pollen
  – Cocoons
  – Hive detritus

• Artificial diet
  – Test animals
  – Animal food
  – Fish bait
Control

- Maintain healthy colonies to promote high bee-to-comb ratio
- Clean Varroa mite detector boards and beetle traps regularly
- Traps – not really
- Do not leave drawn comb in unoccupied beehives
- Extract honey from supers soon after removal
- Freeze or Heat – search for URL resources
- Maintain good sanitary conditions inside and outside the honey house
- Use approved chemicals as a last resort
Do not use naphlene. (Moth Crystals)

Use Paradichlorobenzene (PDB) if still approved.