

**POT MUMS INJURED BY CHRYSANTHEMUM AND
PEA LEAFMINERS**

The chrysanthemum leafminer is commonly observed in cut flower and pot mum plantings. Damage is caused by the fly larvae mining the leaves. Diazinon sprays are effective for controlling this pest. Recently, several growers who did not incorporate Diazinon in their spray schedules experienced serious losses because of chrysanthemum leafminer infestations.

Dr. Clarence Davis, Extension Entomologist, and R. H. Sciaroni, Farm Advisor, report that the pea leafminer has also injured pot chrysanthemums in the Half Moon Bay area. This insect is undoubtedly building up in commercial pea plantings and on certain weeds, particularly nightshade species. It then migrates to the greenhouses.

According to Davis, the female pea leafminer punctures the chrysanthemum leaf cells with her ovipositor and sucks up the sap for food and moisture. This pest does not mine or tunnel mum leaves as does the chrysanthemum leafminer. Neither does it reproduce on mums. However, the feeding punctures can be many and very unsightly thus reducing the quality of the finished plant.

The pea leafminer seems to have a preference for certain varieties as evidenced by the difference in injury under a heavy infestation:

<u>Variety</u>	<u>Injury Rating</u>
Princess Ann (Pink)	Light
Purple Daisy	Heavy
Mandalay	Moderate to heavy

Adult flies are abundant in the summer and early fall. Control can be obtained with Diazinon sprays but repeated applications may be necessary for best results.

R. H. Sciaroni