

# Greater Wax Moth

**Causative Agent:** *Galleria mellonella* (Lepidoptera, Pyralidae)

**Range:** Worldwide

**Life cycle:**

- No stage can survive freezing temperatures
- Adult moths fly to hives and lay eggs in crevices
- The eggs hatch and the larvae burrow through the comb uncapping the honey and causing it to leak. Additionally the larvae lay silk as they burrow contaminating the honey

**Management:**

- Rarely a problem in colder climates until July and August.
- Healthy colonies are able to fend off this pest

**Misconceptions:**

**Other Useful Sites:**

[http://www.ento.psu.edu/MAAREC/pdfs/Wax\\_Moth\\_pm.pdf](http://www.ento.psu.edu/MAAREC/pdfs/Wax_Moth_pm.pdf)  
[http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/scripts/htmlgen.exe?DOCUMENT\\_AA141](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/scripts/htmlgen.exe?DOCUMENT_AA141)

**References used:**

Root, A. I. (1990) The ABC & XYZ of bee culture 40<sup>th</sup> ed. A.I Root Co. Medina, OH.