



# Parasitoids: *Trichogramma* Wasps

Hymenoptera:  
Trichogrammatidae

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR

*Trichogramma* wasps are used worldwide as highly effective biocontrol agents.

Female wasps lay their eggs inside the eggs of a host insect; adult wasps emerge 7-10 days later.



*Trichogramma* emerging from a host corn earworm moth egg

## HOSTS

- moth eggs

## KEY CHARACTER

- parasitized eggs turn black

## APPEARANCE

- adults are very small, mostly 0.5mm and less in length
- yellow/black compact body with red eyes and short antennae

## FRUIT & VEGETABLE CROPS

Many, including:

- avocado
- tomatoes
- sweet corn
- cole crops

**Natural Enemies of Vegetable Insect Pests in Hawaii**





## WHAT THEY ARE

Parasitoids are beneficial insects that prey on vegetable pests. *Trichogramma* wasps are known as Egg Parasitoids: tiny wasps that lay their eggs into the eggs of a pest, thereby killing the pest before it can emerge. Most parasitoids are wasps or flies.

***Trichogramma* wasps attack the host eggs of pests who lay their eggs on plants such as:**

- **sunn hemp**
- **composite flowers:** daisies, chamomile
- **mint family plants:** sage, peppermint, catnip

Plant these among your crops to attract *Trichogramma* wasps.



Sunn Hemp

## WHAT THEY CAN DO FOR YOU



Pest eggs parasitized by *Trichogramma* wasps turn black. No pest larvae will emerge

### PESTS ATTACKED

Eggs of caterpillar (worm) pests:

- cabbageworm
- corn earworm
- diamondback moth
- tomato hornworm

