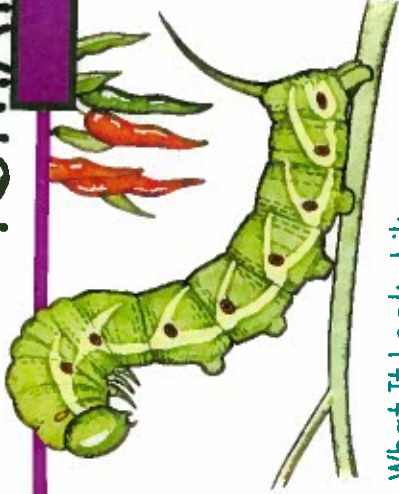


TOMATO HORNWORM



What It Looks Like

The tomato hornworm's rear "horn" looks frightening. This caterpillar rears its head back as if it wants to fight when you touch it. People think it stings or is poisonous, but it is not. In fact, its scary "horn" is soft, and not harmful at all.

The tomato hornworm is green, with a row of yellow arrowheads along each side pointing toward its head.

What It Eats

Tomato hornworms gobble up the leaves of tomato plants, and sometimes the tomato itself. Tomato hornworms also eat the leaves of peppers, eggplants and weeds. You will see them in summer in the garden.

Where to Find It

Birds are the main enemies of this caterpillar. But it makes a tiny squeak to frighten them away. It also hides on plants. The arrowheads on its sides look like leaf veins, so it probably doesn't look very tasty to enemies.

When it is a month old, and longer than the width of your hand, the tomato hornworm lowers itself to the soil on a silk thread and buries itself underground. Out comes the sphinx moth in spring.

