

# *Tuta absoluta* - Tomato leaf miner/Tuta



**ORIGIN:** The pest originates from South America.

**GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION:** EU, Asia and the Middle East, Central America and the Caribbean and Africa.

**STATUS OF *TUTA ABSOLUTA* IN SOUTH AFRICA:** The pest is present in South Africa and was detected in all the 9 Provinces.

**PEST DESCRIPTION:** *Tuta absoluta* / Tomato leaf miner is a small moth and tomato plants are the main host but other plants leaves, from eggplant, peppers, potatoes and several weeds, may also be attacked.

**CONTROL PRACTICES:** The pest spreads through seedlings as well as fruit and it can be controlled by chemical, biological and cultural control measures.

**NB:** This pest can cause serious yield losses of 50 to 100%. Agrochemicals with different modes of action and resistance groups must be rotated after every second application to avoid the development of resistance.



*Tuta absoluta* damage.  
Photos taken from the [www.tutaabsoluta.com](http://www.tutaabsoluta.com)



Photo: Courtesy of  
Crop Watch Africa  
(Roedolf Nieuwenhuis)

**Please do not import plants and plant products into South Africa without authorisation.**

**To report occurrence or suspected occurrence of the disease contact:**

Directorate: Plant Health  
Division: Early Warning Systems  
Tel: 012 319 6104  
Email: [JulieM@dalrrd.gov.za](mailto:JulieM@dalrrd.gov.za)

**For awareness and promotion enquiries contact:**

Directorate: Food Import & Export Standards  
Division: Plant Health Promotion  
Tel: 012 319 6295/6475  
Email: [Info.sps@dalrrd.gov.za](mailto:Info.sps@dalrrd.gov.za)  
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& rural development

Department:  
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development  
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