



The Government of Sark

## **AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, SEA FISHERIES & PILOTAGE COMMITTEE**

A COMMITTEE OF THE CHIEF PLEAS OF SARK  
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### **WARNING ABOUT TUTA ABSOLUTA (SOUTH AMERICAN TOMATO MOTH)**

An infestation of Tuta Absoluta has been confirmed on tomatoes in Sark. This is a potentially serious threat to tomato crops. It can also affect potatoes, aubergines and common beans. It is a very difficult pest to control due to its nature of damage and rapid capability to become resistant to chemical controls.

**TO CONTROL:** remove infected plants and burn.

Please inform the Committee of any infection by telephone or e-mail. (see above)

**WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR:-** The moth is approximately 6mm in size flies at night hiding in foliage during the day. It produces about 250 to 300 eggs in a breeding cycle of up to 12 generations a year. The caterpillars hatch in 4 to 5 days, grow to 9mm in about 15 days before pupating. It is initially pale in colour becoming pale green or pink with a narrow black band just behind the head running across the top and down the sides. On hatching the caterpillar attacks the leaves, stems and fruit mining into the plant tissue. The mines in leaves tend to be blotch rather than meandering.



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