

# Iris Borer Damage

*(From the Maine Iris Society Newsletter, June 2018,  
Edited by Harriet Robinson)*

Iris borers chew tiny holes in leaves leaving ragged edges and then tunnel inside the leaves and travel down to the rhizome. They consume the rhizome destroying the plant. They overwinter as eggs on iris leaves and surrounding plant material.

Cleaning your beds in the fall helps control the problem.

If you know you have this problem, dig up suspicious plants in July, check the rhizomes, and if the caterpillar is present, discard it before it leaves the iris to pupate into a moth in the soil.



Photo of borer leaf damage and rhizome damage by Jill Nicolaus at [davesgarden.com/guides/articles/view/832](http://davesgarden.com/guides/articles/view/832)