Eightspotted Forester

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The Eightspotted forester, Alypia octomaculata (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) feeds on grape and Virginia creeper. The adult moth is velvety black with two yellow-white spots on each of the four wings, and prominent tufts of orange hair-like scales on each leg.

Adults emerge and oviposit on grape shoots and leaves in May and June. The caterpillars feed on foliage, leaving petioles and larger veins. The larvae are blue-white with bright orange stripes, black lines and black spots. It also has an orange head with black spots, and is 1 1/2 inches long at maturity. When larvae are full-grown they drop to the ground to pupate in the soil and leaf litter. There are two generations per year.

Although commercial vineyards are not damaged severely, small areas within a vineyard may have concentrated infestations and defoliation. There are no specific recommendations for controlling this insect.

References
