pest inhibits the expression of a nucleotide sequence substantially complementary to said polynucleotide sequence.

8. A cell transformed with the polynucleotide of claim 1.

9. The cell of claim 8, defined as a prokaryotic cell.

10. The cell of claim 8, defined as a eukaryotic cell.

11. The cell of claim 8, defined as a plant or bacterial cell.

12. A plant transformed with the polynucleotide of claim 1.

13. A seed of the plant of claim 12, wherein the seed comprises the polynucleotide.

14. A plant transformed with the polynucleotide of claim 2.

15. The plant of claim 12, wherein said polynucleotide is expressed in a cell of the plant as a double stranded ribonucleotide sequence and ingestion of an insect pest inhibitory amount of said double stranded ribonucleotide sequence in a diet inhibits the pest from further feeding on said diet.

16. The plant of claim 15, wherein the insect pest is selected from the group consisting of *Diabrotica virgifera, Diabrotica virgifera virgifera, Diabrotica virgifera zea, Diabrotica balteata, Diabrotica barberi, Diabrotica viridula, Diabrotica speciosa,* and *Diabrotica undecimpunctata.*

17. The plant of claim 15, wherein ingestion of the insect pest inhibitory amount of the double stranded ribonucleotide sequence stunts the growth of the pest.

18. A commodity product produced from a plant according to claim 12, wherein said commodity product comprises a detectable amount of the polynucleotide of claim 1 or a ribonucleotide expressed therefrom.

19. A method for controlling coleopteran pest infestation comprising providing in the diet of a coleopteran pest an agent comprising a first polynucleotide sequence that functions upon ingestion by the pest to inhibit a biological function within said pest, wherein said polynucleotide sequence exhibits from about 95 to about 100% nucleotide sequence identity along at least from about 19 to about 25 contiguous nucleotides to a coding sequence derived from said pest and is hybridized to a second polynucleotide sequence that is complementary to said first polynucleotide sequence, and wherein said coding sequence derived from said pest is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 through SEQ ID NO:906, and the complements thereof.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein said coleopteran pest is a Diabrotica spp. is selected from the group consisting of *Diabrotica virgifera, Diabrotica virgifera virgifera, Diabrotica virgifera zea, Diabrotica balteata, Diabrotica barberi, Diabrotica viridula, Diabrotica speciosa,* and *Diabrotica undecimpunctata.*

21. A method for controlling a coleopteran pest infestation comprising providing in the diet of a coleopteran pest a plant cell expressing a polynucleotide sequence according to claim 1, wherein the polynucleotide is expressed to produce a double stranded ribonucleic acid that functions upon ingestion by the pest to inhibit the expression of a target sequence within said pest and results in decreased feeding on said diet relative to a diet lacking the plant cell.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the pest exhibits reduced growth following ingestion of the cell.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein the plant cell further comprises a polynucleotide sequence encoding a pesticidal agent selected from the group consisting of a patatin, a *Bacillus thuringiensis* insecticidal protein, a *Xenorhabdus* insecticidal protein, a *Photorhabdus* insecticidal protein, a *Bacillus laterosporus* insecticidal protein, and a *Bacillus sphaericus* insecticidal protein.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein said *Bacillus thuringiensis* insecticidal protein is selected from the group consisting of a Cry1, a Cry3, a TIC851, a CryET70, a Cry22, a TIC901, a TIC201, a TIC407, a TIC417, a binary insecticidal protein CryET33 and CryET34, a binary insecticidal protein CryET80 and CryET76, a binary insecticidal protein TIC100 and TIC101, a combination of the insecticidal proteins ET29 or ET37 with insecticidal proteins TIC810 or TIC812, and a binary insecticidal protein PS149B1.

25. The method of claim 21, wherein the target sequence encodes a protein, the predicted function of which is selected from the group consisting of muscle formation, juvenile hormone formation, juvenile hormone regulation, ion regulation and transport, digestive enzyme synthesis, maintenance of cell membrane potential, amino acid biosynthesis, amino acid degradation, sperm formation, pheromone synthesis, pheromone sensing, antennae formation, wing formation, leg formation, development and differentiation, egg formation, larval maturation, digestive enzyme formation, haemolymph synthesis, haemolymph maintenance, neurotransmission, cell division, energy metabolism, respiration, and apoptosis.

26. The method of claim 21, wherein said coleopteran pest is a *Diabrotica* spp. is selected from the group consisting of *Diabrotica virgifera, Diabrotica virgifera virgifera, Diabrotica virgifera zea, Diabrotica balteata, Diabrotica barberi, Diabrotica viridula, Diabrotica speciosa,* and *Diabrotica undecimpunctata.*

27. The method of claim 21, wherein the polynucleotide functions upon ingestion by the pest to suppress a gene that performs a function essential for insect survival, said function being selected from the group consisting of feeding by the pest, pest cell apoptosis, cell differentiation and development, capacity or desire for sexual reproduction, muscle formation, muscle twitching, muscle contraction, juvenile hormone formation, juvenile hormone regulation, ion regulation and transport, maintenance of cell membrane potential, amino acid biosynthesis, amino acid degradation, sperm formation, pheromone synthesis, pheromone sensing, antennae formation, wing formation, leg formation, egg formation, larval maturation, digestive enzyme formation, haemolymph synthesis, haemolymph maintenance, neurotransmission, larval stage transition, pupation, emergence from pupation, cell division, energy metabolism, respiration, and formation of cytoskeletal structure.

28. A method for improving the yield of a crop produced from a crop plant subjected to insect pest infestation, said method comprising the steps of,

a) introducing a polynucleotide according to claim 1 into said crop plant,

b) cultivating the crop plant to allow the expression of said polynucleotide, wherein expression of the polynucleotide inhibits feeding by insects pests and loss of yield due to pest infestation.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein expression of the polynucleotide produces an RNA molecule that suppresses at least a first target gene in an insect pest that has ingested a portion of said crop plant, wherein the target gene performs at least one essential function selected from the group