BEET ARMYWORM (BAW)

Spodoptera exigua

Description:

Adults:

About 1 in or 25 mm long with mottled brown or gray front wings and lighter gray hind wings.

Eggs:

Pink to pale green eggs are laid in masses on the upper sides of leaves. Covered with white cottony material made of scales from the female moth.

Larvae:

Generally light olive green color, but may range from bright green to purplish green or almost black. A dark stripe is located on the back with yellow stripes on each side. Commonly have a black spot above the second pair of legs. Mature larvae are about 1 in or 25 mm long.

Pupae:

About 0.75 in or 20 mm long, green to dark brown in color, inside loosely woven cocoon.

Hosts:

Lettuce, cole crops, tomatoes, beans, corn, sugarbeets, cotton, alfalfa.

Top: BAW adult
Bottom left: BAW larva
Bottom right: BAW eggs
(source: UC IPM)

Damage:

- Primarily a foliage feeder. Can destroy seedlings, defoliate plants, and stunt growth under some conditions. This can result in poor quality and loss of yield. Will feed on fruit of tomatoes.

Armyworm larvae skeletonizing and leaving webbing and frass on leaves (source: UC IPM)

Phenology:

- 4 to 5 generations per year in California.
- Larvae reach maturity in 2 to 3 weeks in warm weather.

Lure Type and Maintenance:

- PHEROCON® BAW controlled release lure.
- Replace PHEROCON BAW lures every 4 weeks.

Lure Storage:

- Store in unopened factory sealed packages in a cool place (< 74° F or 24° C maximum) for short periods or refrigerate longer term.
- Refrigerate or freeze unopened packages to carry over for annual storage.

Trap Design:

- PHEROCON Delta VI, 1C, or Bucket trap.

Placement Time:

- At planting in lettuce and cole crops.
- When crops are susceptible to damage.

Placement Pattern:

- At least 1 in each of 4 corners of the field.
- Level with the top of the crop canopy.

Trap Density:

- Use a minimum of 2 traps per field.
- Use 1 trap per 20 acres or 8 ha.

Trap Maintenance:

- Check traps weekly or twice weekly depending on required information.
- Replace trap liners every 4 weeks or when fouled with dust or insect debris.

Recommendations:

- Use pheromone traps to locate infestation.
- Begin intensive monitoring 7 to 10 days after the beginning of the flight.
- Carefully record and follow trap capture data.

Source: Recommendations and certain other sections were sourced from UC IPM Beet Armyworm Pest Management Guidelines for Lettuce, Guidelines for Cole Crops, and Guidelines for Tomato.

TRÉCÉ INCORPORATED
INSECT PHEROMONE & KAIROMONE SYSTEMS
Your Edge – And Ours – Is Knowledge.

© 2022, Trécé Inc., Adair, OK USA • ® is a registered trademark and TM is a trademark of Trécé Inc., Adair, OK 74330 USA

Note, always:

- Use only 1 lure per trap.
- Count and record captures as recommended.
- Change trap as needed.
- Discard lures in trash far from the area of use and remove trash afterwards.
- Follow recommendations.
- Contact local extension authorities and consultants for regional advice.

TRÉCÉ INCORPORATED
INSECT PHEROMONE & KAIROMONE SYSTEMS
Your Edge – And Ours – Is Knowledge.

© 2022, Trécé Inc., Adair, OK USA • ® is a registered trademark and TM is a trademark of Trécé Inc., Adair, OK 74330 USA