

MONITORING GUIDE

LONG-LIFE HOUSEFLY ATTRACTANT TABLET

Housefly
Musca domestica



GENERAL INFORMATION

Electric light traps are commonly used for housefly control. Over the past few years, traps using sticky catchment boards have become preferred over the electrocutor type. While these traps are quite efficient in controlling fly populations, they have one major shortcoming - they rely entirely on the housefly's VISION for success.

It has been well documented that the compound eye of the housefly enables it to sense the slightest movement in a wide arc of vision and also to identify a broader range of colours than humans. The fly's long-range vision, however, is considered to be quite poor, so the insect has to be fairly close to objects in order to see them properly, and this includes light-traps.

The use of an olfactory attractant such as the '**Long-Life Fly Attractant Tablet**' can improve the efficiency of light traps. This combination of a potent food protein and a pheromone appeals to the insect's sense of smell and attracts the housefly from well beyond the visual range of the electric light trap. Once the fly gets close to the trap, the UV light of the trap takes care of the rest. The combination of these two different attractants, smell and sight, can therefore improve the efficiency of the light traps for fly control.

HANDLING AND PLACEMENT OF THE LURES

Each '**Long-Life Fly Attractant Tablet**' is packaged in a foil pouch to ensure freshness, and should be kept in a cool place until ready for use. The lure is made in the form of a hard tablet, with a red pheromone-impregnated pad attached to one side.

The tablet can be attached to either the inside or to the outside of the light trap, or even placed nearby. Make sure that the red pheromone pad faces upwards, so that the pheromone can diffuse out freely into the air. More than one tablet per light trap may be used. Dampen the tablet prior to putting it in place, since the tablet requires a certain level of humidity in order to ensure immediate release of the attractant - this is especially important where humidity levels are low.

Once the tablet has been taken out of the foil pouch, it will be effective for approximately 3 months, after which time it should be replaced with a new tablet.

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