

MONITORING GUIDE

YELLOW & BLUE STICKY TRAPS

FOR THE CONTROL OF WHITEFLIES IN GREENHOUSES & LANDSCAPES

Yellow & Blue Sticky Traps



Product No. 2050216

GENERAL INFORMATION

Monitoring traps are used not only to confirm the presence of certain insect pests in the field, but also to identify the insect's current lifecycle stage. Only the adult (moth) stage of the insect is caught in the trap, so users must understand the insect lifecycle in order to know when to expect the other stages (egg, larva and pupa). Correct placement and frequent inspection of the traps is critical and will confirm the source of infestation. Trapcatch information ensures that insect control methods can be implemented at the appropriate time. Regular recording of the trapcatch data will enable the user to manage the insect pest effectively.

LIFE HISTORY

Two species of whiteflies are commonly found as pests in greenhouses: the Silverleaf Whitefly (*Bemisia argentifolii*) and the Greenhouse Whitefly (*Trialeurodes vaporariorum*). The adults are easily identified by their four white powdery wings (unlike true flies which only have two wings), and the way they scatter very quickly when disturbed. The eggs are usually laid on the underside of the leaves and hatch after 4-12 days into active crawling nymphs, which crawl for several hours until they find a suitable spot to start feeding. These immature nymphs remain in the same spot feeding and after a series of moults finally emerge as the mobile adult whitefly. The speed of development depends on the temperature conditions and is fastest under warm conditions (26 - 32 °C). Similar to aphids, soft scale and mealybugs, the immature whitefly nymphs excrete 'honeydew' while feeding on plant tissues. This provides a good medium for the growth of a black Sooty Mold fungus, which severely affects the plant.

TRAP PLACEMENT

Yellow sticky monitoring traps are a recognized method of attracting and capturing whiteflies as they move around within a greenhouse. Use one trap every 100 sq. metres for simple monitoring purposes, or increase the number of traps by 4-5 times for use as a mass-trapping tool. Place the yellow cards vertically just above the crop canopy, using either stakes or hanging wires, and record the catches for each trap on a regular basis - no longer than 7 day intervals.

Place **yellow traps** at or near all entry points, such as doorways and vents and also under some benches in case of fungus gnats. If thrips are suspected hang **blue sticky traps** in a similar placement.

It is important to place **yellow traps** prior to the first whitefly sightings since this insect can multiply rapidly, and traps placed early in the season will help to prevent surprise build-ups. Record keeping is the most important aspect of monitoring, for it will indicate where the hotspots are, where sudden changes are occurring so that you can act promptly when necessary.

Sanitation is equally important in the war against whiteflies, not just through removal of weeds and contaminated material in the growing area, but also through careful inspection of all incoming stock to ensure there are no new introductions, as well as the insect proofing of all vents and other entrances with fine mesh screens.

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