

MONITORING GUIDE

WEBBING CLOTHES MOTH

Tineola bisselliella

**Webbing Clothes
Moth**



Suggested Traps

Diamond Trap



Product No.2050204

GENERAL INFORMATION

Insect monitoring traps are used to identify not only the presence or absence of a certain insect species, but also to establish the extent of their activity in a particular location. This information can be used to determine which stage of the insect life cycle is occurring at any time, allowing for more accurate and timely applications of control methods. Basic knowledge of the insect's life cycle is necessary, since the monitoring traps are only effective on the adult stage of the insect.

Regular recording of the trap catch is essential and over the years will provide a reliable blueprint with which the grower can properly manage the pest. In addition to collecting trap-catch information, it is also vital to assess the amount of insect damage that occurs in every generation of the insect, as a measure of the effectiveness of the control treatments.

LIFE HISTORY

The Webbing Clothes Moth (WCM) measures approximately 5mm in length and is straw-coloured with no distinctive markings on the wings. The larvae are tiny white 'caterpillars' with brown heads that cause considerable damage by feeding on articles containing wool, mohair, fur, hair, feathers or other products of animal origin.

The female moths lay between 100-300 white eggs on the surface of the fabric, which hatch out about 5 days later. The larvae feed on the fabric, leaving webs or tubes on the surface, and continue to develop over the next 6 weeks. The larval development time depends on temperature and is much longer under cooler conditions. The period of greatest moth activity is generally during the summer months.

The most important aspect of WCM control is careful sanitation such as washing, dry-cleaning, vacuuming and brushing articles that are likely to be attacked and, where possible, storing them in moth-proof containers. Cold storage of 5.5°C or extreme heat of 43°C or higher will also destroy these insects. Another means of protection is to place cleaned articles in cedar-lined closets, where the cedar oil content is high.

TRAP PLACEMENT

Hang the trap in areas where insect presence is suspected and inspect twice a week. If there is no catch, try moving the trap to a different location. If insects are being caught, leave the trap in position and add additional traps as needed. Catching and trapping adult moths will affect the reproduction and development of further larvae.

The pheromone lures should be taken out of the sealed package with minimal handling and placed on the floor of the trap. The lure will be effective for 6-8 weeks, after which time it should be replaced with a new lure.

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