





Technical Bulletin for: Pale Western Cutworm

Agrotis orthogonia (Morrison) • Lepidoptera, Noctuidae • AGRORT



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| DISTRIBUTION | North America, from Southern Canada to California, ranging to the eastern edge of the Great Plains. |
| HOSTS | Various forbs and grasses, including winter wheat, corn, sugar beets, and other small grains. |
| DESCRIPTION | |
| Adult Moth | Gray to brownish-white, about 19 mm in length with a wingspan of about 35 mm. |
| Larvae | 25 mm in length when mature, grayish-white in color, with 2 brown bars on the front of the head capsule. |
| Eggs | Laid in the upper 12 mm of soil, about 250-300 eggs laid in total. |
| LIFE HISTORY | Adult moths emerge from the soil in late summer and fall. Eggs are deposited in loose soil and usually hatch within two weeks. Hatch may be delayed for up to several months if moisture and temperature conditions are unfavorable. Larvae prefer loose, sandy or dusty soil and are found most easily in the driest parts of the field, such as hilltops. After feeding is completed, pale western cutworm larvae move to pupal chambers constructed several inches below the soil surface. Adult emergence can begin in late July. |

MONITORING INFORMATION

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| LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE | Z5-12Ac, and Z7-12Ac in a Red Rubber Septum. Lure longevity: Thirty (30) days.  |
| TRAP TO USE | Paper or Plastic Delta Trap, or Uni Trap  |
| MONITORING STRATEGY | Hang traps in mid to late August and monitor weekly through October. Check with Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations. |
| CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROL | Since they appear during dry springs, detection is difficult. Check for wilting or dead tillers in wheat, or leaf damage, and dispose of such crops to help prevent further infestation. |

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