





Technical Bulletin for: Turnip Moth

Agrotis segetum (Denis & Schiffermüller) • Lepidoptera, Noctuidae • AGRSEG



DISTRIBUTION	Established widely across Europe and present in Algeria, Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Zimbabwe.
HOSTS	Cutworms are indiscriminate feeders, causing damage to a variety of crops, mainly when they are young. Among the crops that commonly suffer are maize, tobacco, potatoes, young coffee, cotton, asparagus, bean, beet, cabbage, castor bean, grape, lettuce, onions, cabbages, peanut, pepper, potato, radish, spinach, squash, strawberry, rice, rye and tomato.
DESCRIPTION	
ADULT MOTH	Adults have dark brown fore wings with a wingspan of 40 mm. The hind wings on females are gray and the hind wings on males are white. The wings have a thin black border.
LARVAE	The larvae are greasy in appearance and usually between 45 and 50 mm in length. There are two small black spots at the rear and front of each segment
EGGS	Eggs are pearly white, about .5 mm in diameter and rounded. They generally appear in clusters of 600-8000 but there can be as many as 2,000.
LIFE HISTORY	There are typically 1-2 generations per year with the possibility of a partial third generation. The turnip moth overwinters as a caterpillar with development resuming between March-April. Depending on location and temperature, adults can emerge between April to late July.

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE	Z-5-Decenyl Acetate on red rubber septum, Lure longevity: 30 days.	
TRAP TO USE	Red Paper or Plastic Delta Trap	
MONITORING STRATEGIES	In smaller fields, use one trap every 1 to 1 ½ acre. A minimum of two traps should also be used for fields of uneven topography. For larger fields (10 acres or greater) use 1-2 traps per five acres. Traps should be placed at the highest point of the plant. Traps should be checked weekly or more frequently, depending on pest population. Check with Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.	
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROLS	Plough and fallow fields before the planting season to prevent the laying of eggs, to expose the larvae or deeply bury the pupae; cultivate fields after vegetation has appeared and grown a few centimeters, and then delay seeding to starve the cutworms; cultivate frequently to injure and expose hiding cutworms to predators; plant a thick "trap crop" of sunflower, around the perimeter of the garden and find and destroy attacking cutworms daily.	

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