





Technical Bulletin for: Alfalfa Looper

Autographa californica (Speyer) • Lepidoptera, Noctuidae • AUTCAL



DISTRIBUTION	From Southern British Columbia to Baja California, and to Manitoba, South Dakota, Colorado and New Mexico
HOSTS	Many species, including Umbellifers (carrots, celery, parsley), Asters, Holly, Crucifers (cabbage), Borages, Honeysuckle, Amaranths, Cucurbits, Legumes and Heathers.
DESCRIPTION	
Adult	With a wingspan of 36-42 mm, mottled blue-gray in color with patches of brown.
Larvae	Smooth, with two pairs of abdominal prolegs, green with a thin white lateral line. Mature larvae grow to about 25 mm long
Eggs	Yellow in color and hemispherical, with ridges ranging from top to bottom.
LIFE HISTORY	Adults are partially diurnal and fly between spring and late fall, with major peaks of activity occurring in May, July and September. Eggs are laid singly or in small groups, totaling 150-200 eggs, on host plants just prior to blooming. Larvae hatch within a week, feeding on the flowers of the host plant for 4 weeks before pupating in cocoons attached to the plants. There can be multiple generations, generally 2-4, per year.

MONITORING INFORMATION

ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, LURE, FIELD LIFE	Z7-12Ac in a Red Rubber Septum. Lure longevity: 30 Days	
TRAP TO USE	Red Paper or Plastic Delta Trap	
MONITORING STRATEGY	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 approximately the same height as the crop. 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 CONTROL	Scout the field for larvae at the start of flowering. Look for characteristic clipping of flowers. Weed control can also significantly affect looper management. Eliminate concentrations of wild lambsquarters, mustard, and other weeds that attract and host looper moths.	

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