





Technical Bulletin for: **OLIVE FRUIT FLY**

Bactrocera oleae (Gmelin) • Diptera, *Dephritidae* • DACOLE



DISTRIBUTION	Mediterranean basin, northern, eastern and southern Africa, Canary Islands, India, western Asia, and apparently wherever olives (the genus <i>Olea</i>) occur in the Eastern Hemisphere. Has moved into the US via Mexico. Not currently found in New Zealand or Australia.
HOSTS	Olives.
DESCRIPTION	
Adult Fly	The adult fly is about 3/16 of an inch in length (4-5mm.) and reddish-brown in color. The top of thorax has three longitudinal dark lines in front and a large white triangular shaped structure located at the rear. The wings are mostly clear with a small dark spot near the tip. Females have an ovipositor at the tip of the abdomen.
Larvae	Yellowish-white maggot.
LIFE HISTORY	Early August in California, the female pierces the skin of the olive and deposits a single egg in the pulp. Olive juice of the pierced olive repels other females for about five days. A female may lay from 50 to 400 eggs. Development from egg to adult takes 30 to 40 days. All but the last generation pupates in fruit. Last generation larvae pupate in soil. Generations per year 2-5.

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE, FIELD LIFE	Powder in pouch, 2 months	
TRAP TO USE	Yellow Rectangle Adhesive Card	
MONITORING STRATEGY	Hang trap on the south side of the tree on the outside of the canopy. One trap per tree will greatly reduce fly infestation. Change the trap every 4 weeks or more frequently depending on dusty conditions. Change lure every 10 weeks. Check with your local Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.	
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROL	Thoroughly remove fruit from trees to prevent over-wintering. Do the same for ornamental, backyard, park, reservoirs of olive trees. Cover crops seem to decrease fly levels. Plant resistant olive varieties. Prune trees heavily to increase light penetration and air movement which discourages the fly.	

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