






Technical Bulletin for: Citrus Leafminer

Phyllocnistis citrella (Stainton) • Lepidoptera: Gracillariidae • PHYCIT



DISTRIBUTION	Native to Asia, it has been introduced into North and South America, also present in the Middle East.
HOSTS	Citrus
DESCRIPTION	
Adult Moth	White and silvery iridescent scales on the forewings, with several black and tan markings, plus a black spot on each wingtip. Wingspan of approximately 4 mm.
Larvae	Translucent greenish-yellow about $\frac{1}{10}$ in. (3 mm) in length.
Eggs	Miniscule and translucent white – resemble a water droplet
LIFE HISTORY	Adults do not damage plants and live only 1 to 2 weeks. After mating, the female lays single eggs on the underside of host leaves. On the tree, the newly emerged leaflets of flush growth, particularly along the midvein, are the preferred egg-laying sites. Eggs hatch about 1 week after being laid. The newly emerged larvae immediately begin feeding in the leaf and initially produce tiny, nearly invisible, mines. As the larva grows, its serpentine path of mines becomes more noticeable. The larva emerges from the mine as a prepupa and rolls the edge of the leaf over causing a curling of the leaf. The pupal stage lasts from 1 to 3 weeks. The entire life cycle of the insect takes 3 to 7 weeks to complete. Citrus Leafminer develops best at temperatures between 70° to 85°F (21 to 29°C) and greater than 60% relative humidity.

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE	(Z,Z)-7,11-Hexadecadienal and (Z,Z,E)-7,11,13-Hexadecatrienal on a gray rubber septum. Lure longevity: Four (4) weeks.	
TRAP TO USE	Paper or Plastic Delta  or Wing Trap 	
MONITORING STRATEGY	Use 1 trap for every 3 acres. Traps should be placed at mid-canopy. Monitor moth flight throughout the growing season. Change trap liners ever 1-2 weeks depending on moth density. Check with Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.	
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROL	None reported.	

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