



Technical Bulletin for: Western Cherry Fruit Fly (maggot)

Rhagoletis indifferens (Curran) • Diptera: Tephritidae • RHAIND



DISTRIBUTION	Western United States and Canada.
HOSTS	All varieties of cultivated and wild cherries
DESCRIPTION	
Adult Moth	Smaller than the common house fly. Head and legs yellowish brown. Female has 4 crossbands of the abdomen, male 3 crossbands. Clear wings with dark bands.
Larvae	Creamy white legless maggot, about $\frac{5}{16}$ inch (8.5 mm) long.
Eggs	Creamy white, slightly curved, about $\frac{1}{30}$ inch (0.6 mm) long deposited under the cherry skin.
LIFE HISTORY	Cherry fruit fly completes only one generation a year. It overwinters as a pupa in the soil. The pupae are affected by soil temperature and do not all develop at the same rate. Adults begin to emerge in May, about 5 weeks before harvest, and are active until 3 or 4 weeks after harvest. Peak emergence often coincides with harvest. Adults live 16 to 35 days, depending on temperatures.

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE

Powder in plastic sachet.
Lure longevity: Twelve (12) weeks.

TRAP TO USE

Yellow Adhesive Card (2-sided or back-folding)



MONITORING STRATEGY

Traps should be placed in the fruiting canopy of the tree. Clear the area around the trap (12 to 18 inches) of fruit and foliage to allow access. Check with Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.

CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROL

Cherry fruit flies build up in unsprayed, non-commercial sweet or tart cherry trees planted in home orchards, abandoned cherry trees and in wild hosts. Such sources should be removed. Few hobby orchardists have the ambition, knowledge or equipment necessary to control this pest.

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