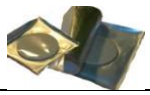
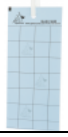
Technical Bulletin for:

Western Flower Thrips

Frankliniella occidentalis (Linnaeus) • Thysanoptera, *Thripidae* • FRAOCC

DISTRIBUTION	Native to North America, since 1980 it has spread throughout the World.
HOSTS	Many herbaceous ornamentals (impatiens, petunia); vegetables (cucurbits, pepper); fruits (grape, strawberry); some shrubs and trees (rose, stone fruit).
DESCRIPTION	
Adult	The adult is about 1 mm long. It is yellow with dusky markings on the side of the abdomen. The two sexes look similar, but the male is smaller and always light colored. The abdomen of females ranges from pale yellow to dark brown.
Larvae	Resembles the adult but is smaller.
Eggs	Flat, circular, and translucent laid singly on fruit or foliage.
LIFE HISTORY	Western flower thrips is a year-round pest. The lifecycle of the Western flower thrips varies in length due to temperature, with the adult living from two to five or more weeks, and the nymph stage lasting from five to 20 days. Each female may lay 40 to over 100 eggs in the tissues of the plant, often in the flower, but also in the fruit or foliage.
MONITORING INFORMATION	
LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE	p-Anisaldehyde in a Coaster Lure Packet. Lure Longevity: Thirty (30) Days 
TRAP TO USE	Blue Card or Blue Roll 
MONITORING STRATEGY	Place one baited trap per ha or per greenhouse (lures sold separately). In green houses place traps at the least 20 ft (6 m) from the edges of the field. Place traps 1 ft (30 cm) above the above the raw crop or 6 ft (1.8 m) above the ground for tree crops. Change the sticky trap and lure every 5 weeks.
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROL	Several cultural practices may reduce injury by Western flower thrips. If control is necessary, use an integrated program of control strategies that combines the use of good cultural practices and conservation of natural enemies with the use of least-toxic insecticides, such as narrow-range oils and avoiding the use of insecticides that may not be effective against thrips and may actually increase the amount of injury occurring during harvest by killing natural enemies. Check with Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.

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