





Technical Bulletin for: Mint Root Borer

Fumibotys fumalis (Guenée) • Lepidoptera, *Crambidae* • FUMFUM



DISTRIBUTION	North America
HOSTS	Mint, especially peppermint.
DESCRIPTION	
ADULT MOTH	Forewing is orangish to light brown, with a dark patch in the middle of the wing, wingspan of about 20 mm.
LARVAE	Yellow to light green with dark stripes down the back, about 19 mm in length.
EGGS	Nearly transparent to white, turning to greenish-brown prior to hatching.
LIFE HISTORY	Overwinters in the soil around mint roots. Pupates in the spring and emerges as a moth in June and July; larvae hatch from eggs deposited on the undersides of leaves and feed for a short time before moving into the soil to feed inside the rhizomes; continued feeding eventually kills the mint plant.

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE	Z-13-18Acc, Z-11-16Ac, Z-13-18Ald in a Red Rubber Septum. Field life: thirty (30) days.	
TRAP TO USE	Red Paper or Plastic Delta Trap	
MONITORING STRATEGY	Place at least two pheromone traps in the field and count the number of adult males captured each week. No threshold has been set for pheromone trap catches, but they may serve as indicators of potential infestations. Check with Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.	
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROLS	Tillage is an effective method of control, performed after mint root borer enters the overwintering stage in the fall or before adults emerge in early June. Plowing and double disking or strip tillage both provide adequate control of mint root borer.	

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