



# Technical Bulletin for: Tobacco Budworm

*Heliothis virescens* (Fabricius) • Lepidoptera, Noctuidae • HELVIR



<b>DISTRIBUTION</b>	Eastern and Southwestern United States, parts of Central America, and South America
<b>HOSTS</b>	Tobacco and Cotton, though can thrive on a variety of other host plants.
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	
<b>Adult Moth</b>	Brownish in color with a light green tinge. The front wings have three dark bands, each associated with a whitish or cream border. Hindwings are whitish with a dark band at the distal margin. Fully grown adults measure between 28 and 35 mm in wingspan. Females are generally darker in color than males.
<b>Larvae</b>	The mature larva is about 3.5 mm long and 1.1 mm wide. Larvae are a yellow or yellowish green upon hatching, with a yellowish-brown head capsule. During later instars, larvae have variable colors ranging from greenish to pinkish, or even a dark red or maroon with a broad brown head capsule. Usually pass through 5-6 instars
<b>Eggs</b>	Initially whitish or yellowish and turn grey as they age. With a radius of 0.5 to 0.6 millimeters, eggs are generally spherical with a flattened base where they are attached to the plant.
<b>LIFE HISTORY</b>	The life cycle generally occurs during the warmer months of late spring to early fall, depending on the region that the budworm is found. During this time 4 to 5 generations can occur, depending on the region. Females generally produce up to 300-500 eggs, deposited on blossoms, fruit or terminal growths of the host plants. Larvae feed for 17-18 days before pupating for roughly 13 days during the summer, longer during the late fall as species will overwinter as pupae.

## MONITORING INFORMATION

<b>LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE &amp; FIELD LIFE</b>	Z11-16Ald, Z9-14Ald, and Z11-16OH in a Red Rubber Septum. Lure longevity: Thirty (30) days.	
<b>TRAP TO USE</b>	Red Paper or Plastic Delta Trap.	
<b>MONITORING STRATEGY</b>	Hang traps nearby host plants. When trapping for multiple insects, space traps out by at least 20 m. Check with Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.	
<b>CULTURAL &amp; PHYSICAL CONTROL</b>	Harvesting as soon as possible is recommended. If infestation is too great, clearance of the entire field may be necessary. Check for eggs or larvae feeding on the buds, blossoms, or fruits of the host plant. Remove infested segments as necessary or If possible.	

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