



# Technical Bulletin for: Tomato Pinworm

*Keiferica lycopersicella* (Walsingham) • Lepidoptera, *Gelechiidae* • KEILYC



<b>DISTRIBUTION</b>	Mexico, California, Texas, Hawa’ii, Cuba, Haiti and the Bahamas. Has also been reported in Delaware, Mississippi, Missouri, Pennsylvania and Virginia
<b>HOSTS</b>	Various species of Nightshade, including Tomato, Potato, Eggplant, Carolina Horsenettle, Purple Nightshade, Bluewitch and Bahama Nightshade
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	
<b>Adult Moth</b>	Adults are about 4.2-5.5 mm in forewing length. They are variably light to medium gray mottled with dark gray and yellowish-orange.
<b>Larvae</b>	Young larvae are yellowish-gray with a brown head capsule. As the larva matures it develops dorsal coloration that initially is orangish or brownish and eventually turns purplish. The mature larva measures 5.8-7.9 mm.
<b>Eggs</b>	Eggs are opaque, pale yellow when laid, but turn orange before hatching.
<b>LIFE HISTORY</b>	Young larvae use silk to spin a tent. Under the cover of this tent they create a tunnel into a leaf of their host. Continued feeding results in a blotch-like mine which can usually be found on that same leaf. The third and fourth larval instars feed from within tied leaves or folded portions of a leaf. They may also enter stems or fruits. Mature larvae abandon the host and form a loose pupal cell of sand grains near the soil surface. The adult emerges from this pupal cell two to four weeks later. Although the life cycle is lengthy, generations overlap, and infestations quickly mount to damaging proportions. Seven or eight generations or more per year can be expected.

## MONITORING INFORMATION

<b>LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE &amp; FIELD LIFE</b>	E4-13Ac 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 host plants, as well as for egg clusters on the surface of leaves. Remove infested segments as necessary or if possible, taking care to properly dispose of eggs to ensure less generational development.	

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