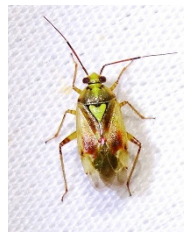





# Technical Bulletin for: Western Tarnished Plant Bug

*Lygus hesperus* (Knight) • Hemiptera, Miridae • LYGHES



<b>DISTRIBUTION</b>	South and Central America, Mexico, and Southwestern United States.
<b>HOSTS</b>	Seed crops, Alfalfa, Blackeye Bean, Caneberries, Cotton, Green Bean, Pigweed, Russian Thistle, Strawberries
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	
<b>ADULT BUGS</b>	Adults are between 4.25 and 5.24 mm in length, with flattened back and a conspicuous triangle on thoracic scutellum. They are yellowish to reddish-brown in color, with notable pronotal spots, black-tinted wing membranes, and red tibial apices and abdominal patterning.
<b>NYMPHS</b>	Immatures are pale green and resemble aphids apart from more rapid movements. Third and later instar nymphs are a deeper green and characterized by 5 dorsal black dots- two behind the head, two on the thorax, and one on the central abdomen.
<b>EGGS</b>	Eggs are 1mm and oblong, slightly curved, and flattened on one end, laid single in soft tissue of host plants
<b>LIFE HISTORY</b>	Adults overwinter in weedy areas and in plant debris on the ground, emerging in early spring. Mature adults first mate at 8 days old, males mating once per day for six days, females mating 3 times in 6 day intervals. One mating enables a female to produce eggs for the remainder of her lifespan. Females begin producing male attractant pheromones as eggs mature in the ovaries, at around 6 days of age, ceasing immediately after mating. Eggs are laid in the soft tissue of host plants, hatching in about 10 days dependent on temperature. The nymphs go through 5 instars, taking about 15-30 days to reach maturity. Depending on temperature, there can be 1-3 generations per year. Warm and dry conditions are considered favorable for development.

## MONITORING INFORMATION

<b>LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENT, SUBSTRATE &amp; FIELD LIFE</b>	Blend of hexyl butyrate (HB), (E)-2-hexenyl butyrate (E2HB), and (E)-4-oxo-2-hexenal (E4OH) in pipette tip. Field life: thirty (21) days.
<b>TRAP TO USE</b>	Red Sticky Card 
<b>MONITORING STRATEGY</b>	Hang the trap and lure in early spring, low above the plants, along the edge of plantation to check for bugs migration from riparian areas or alfalfa fields. Replace the lure every 21 days. Placing more traps can result in lowering bug population. Check with Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.
<b>CULTURAL &amp; PHYSICAL CONTROL</b>	Weed management is a basic agronomic practice used to suppress pest infestations. Planting trap crops around the orchard and removing bugs may offer some suppression.

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