



Technical Bulletin for: Pink Boll Worm

Pectinophora gossypiella (Saunders) • Lepidoptera, *Gelechiidae* • PEGGOS



DISTRIBUTION	Africa, Asia, Europe, The Americas (Southern U.S. and Central/South America)
HOSTS	Cotton
DESCRIPTION	
Adult Moth	Small, thin, Gray in color, about 9-10 mm in length, with a wingspan of 15-20 mm
Larvae	Dull white with pink banding, with 8 legs. Reaches a total of ~12-13 mm in length. There are 4 instars total
Eggs	Elongate oval, flattened, about 1 mm long and 0.5 mm wide. Pearly white in color, finely wrinkled. Initially has a greenish tint, becoming a reddish one as the egg matures.
LIFE HISTORY	Adults live for 2 weeks. Females lay a total of 200-300 eggs in small clusters on green cotton boll. After they hatch, the larvae eat the cotton seeds and damage the fiber. When the larvae mature, they cut out the boll and drop to the ground and cocoon near the soil surface.

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE	Gossyplure in a Red Rubber Septum. Lure longevity: Thirty (30) days. 
TRAP TO USE	Red Paper or Plastic Delta Trap. 
MONITORING STRATEGY	Hang traps near potential host plants shortly after planting of crops. If trapping for multiple moth species, separate traps by at least 20 m. Check with Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROL	Check for damaged bolls, which do not open all the way and contain multiple larvae. Remove infested bolls and burn to lessen chances of further future infestations.

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