

Technical Bulletin for: Indian Meal Moth

Plodia interpunctella (Hübner) • Lepidoptera, Pyralidae • PLOINT

| DISTRIBUTION | Worldwide pest of stored products and food products |
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| Ноѕтѕ | Feeds primarily on stored food products |
| DESCRIPTION | |
| Adult Moth | Adults are small, about 9 mm in length with a wingspan of about 16 mm. Body color is gray with a rusty brown wing tip. |
| Larvae | Larvae are usually off-white. However, but has been observed to be pink, brown or almost greenish, depending on the food source. The mature larvae are about 12 mm in length. |
| Eggs | Eggs are grayish white and are 0.3 to 0.5 mm in length. |
| LIFE HISTORY | A typical life cycle takes between forty and fifty-five days. While the potential exists for up to nine generations per year exists, cool temperatures during winter usually results in fewer generations. Under ideal conditions, Indian meal moths can complete an entire life cycle in approximately four weeks. Females lay between 100 and 300 eggs on food material. Larvae will begin to hatch in two to fourteen days, depending on environmental conditions. The larval stage lasts from two weeks to one year. When mature, larvae spin a silken cocoon and transform into light-brown pupae. Adults emerge in four to thirty days, mate, and females lay the next generation of eggs. Adults live from five to twenty-five days. |

MONITORING INFORMATION

| LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE | Z,E-9,12-14Ac on a Red Rubber Septum. Lure Longevity: Four (6) weeks. |
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| TRAP TO USE | Jackson Trap, Wing Trap, Plastic Delta Insert |
| MONITORING STRATEGY | Place traps near the food source. Do not use too many traps – 1 or 2 per room is sufficient. Using too many traps will confuse moths and reduces trap effectiveness. Monitor taps closely and replace as needed. |
| CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROL | Store dry and bulk food into a tight fitting container. Clean cupboards and shelves on a regular basis. Clean used and old containers with soap before using for food storage. |
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