





Technical Bulletin for: Eastern Cherry Fruit Fly

Rhagoletis cingulata (Loew) • Diptera, *Tephritidae* • RHACIN



DISTRIBUTION	Eastern United States and Canada.
HOSTS	Black cherry and other sweet and sour cherries but not choke cherry or other stone fruit
DESCRIPTION	
Adult Moth	Smaller than the common house fly. Head and legs yellowish brown. Female has 4 crossbands of the abdomen, male 3 crossbands. Clear wings with dark bands and a dark spot at the wing tip (not joined to adjacent band as with <i>Rhagoletis indifferens</i>).
Larvae	Creamy white legless maggot, about 8.5 mm long.
Eggs	Creamy white, slightly curved, about 0.6 mm long deposited under the cherry skin.
LIFE HISTORY	Cherry fruit fly completes only one generation a year. It overwinters as a pupa in the soil. The pupae are affected by soil temperature and do not all develop at the same rate. Adults begin to emerge in May, about 5 weeks before harvest, and are active until 3 or 4 weeks after harvest. Peak emergence often coincides with harvest. Adults live 16 to 35 days, depending on temperatures.

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE	Ammonium Carbonate in a plastic sachet. Lure longevity: Twelve (12) weeks.	
TRAP TO USE	Yellow Sticky Card (2-sided or back-folding)	
MONITORING STRATEGY	Traps should be placed in the fruiting canopy of the tree. Clear the area around the trap (30-35 cm) of fruit and foliage to allow access. Check with Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.	
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROL	Cherry fruit flies build up in unsprayed, non-commercial sweet or tart cherry trees planted in home orchards, abandoned cherry trees and in wild hosts. Such sources should be removed. Few hobby orchardists have the ambition, knowledge or equipment necessary to control this pest.	

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