






Technical Bulletin for: Walnut Husk Fly **LACTONE**

Rhagoletis completa (Linnaeus) • Diptera, Tephritidae • RHACOM



DISTRIBUTION	North America and Europe, notably Italy
HOSTS	Primarily walnuts but may attack late maturing varieties of peaches near walnuts.
DESCRIPTION	
Adult	Adults are about the size of a house fly, with a yellow spot just below where the wings are attached. The adult also has a dark triangular band at the wing tip.
Larvae	White, turning yellow as it matures, about 13 mm long at maturity.
Eggs	Pearly white, slightly curved about 1 mm long.
LIFE HISTORY	This fly has one generation per year. Walnut husk flies overwinter as pupae in the soil and emerge as adults in some areas as early as May, but generally around July 1. Peak emergence often occurs mid-July through mid-August. Females deposit eggs in groups of about 15 below the surface of the husk. Eggs hatch into white maggots within 5 days. The maggots feed inside the husk, enlarging the black area, which remains soft, unswollen, and smooth. After feeding on the husk for 3 to 5 weeks, mature maggots drop to the ground and burrow several inches into the soil to pupate. Most emerge as adults the following summer, but some remain in the soil for 2 or more years.
MONITORING INFORMATION	
LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE	Delta-Heptalactone in plastic vial. Lure Longevity: Twelve (12) Weeks 
TRAP TO USE	Double-sided or Back-folded Yellow Card  
MONITORING STRATEGY	Use at least two traps per 10 acres. Traps should be placed in high risk areas: trees that had walnut husk fly damage in prior years, damp areas, large shaded trees, or near black walnut trees. Traps should be hung in June as high as possible within an area of dense foliage on the north side of trees. Check traps at least twice a week. Record the catch each time. As soon as flies are caught or whenever there is a sudden increase in trap catches, monitor for eggs. Check with Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROL	Remove fallen infested fruit and remove the source of the infestation, probably a nearby walnut tree. Be aware that some pupae remain in the ground for more than one year, flies may continue to appear after the source is removed and control may be needed over several years.

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