





# Technical Bulletin for: **Tobacco Cutworm**

*Spodoptera litura* (Fabricius) • Lepidoptera, Noctuidae • SPOLIT



<b>DISTRIBUTION</b>	Asia, Oceania and India
<b>HOSTS</b>	Various, including Tobacco, Cotton, Soybean, Beet, Cabbage and Chickpeas.
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	
<b>Adult Moth</b>	Male forewing length is 14–17 mm while female forewing length is slightly larger and measures 15–18 mm. The orbicular spot on the forewing is also more pronounced in the males. Adult moths are on average 15–20 mm long and have a total wingspan of 30–38 mm. The body is a gray-brown color. The forewings are patterned with dark gray, red, and brown colors. The hindwings are grayish-white with a gray outline.
<b>Larvae</b>	Larvae body length ranges from 2.3 to 32 mm. The larva is variable in color based on age. Younger larvae tend to be a lighter green while older ones develop to a dark green or brown color. A bright yellow stripe along the dorsal surface is a characteristic feature of the larvae.
<b>Eggs</b>	Eggs are spherical and slightly flattened. Each individual egg is around 0.6 mm in diameter with an orange-brown or pink color.
<b>LIFE HISTORY</b>	Typically, 12 generations occur each year, with each generation lasting about a month. Eggs are laid on the surface of leaves in big batches, with each cluster usually containing several hundred eggs. Females have a typical fecundity of 2000 to 2600 eggs. Larvae feed viciously on their host plants, causing severe damage. The species is nocturnal, going through six instars before pupating, which itself lasts 7-10 days. Adults emerge, with average lifespans of 8.3 days for females and 10.4 days for males.

## MONITORING INFORMATION

<b>LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE &amp; FIELD LIFE</b>	ZE-9,11-14Ac and ZE-9,12-14Ac in a Red Rubber Septum. Lure longevity: Thirty (30) days.	
<b>TRAP TO USE</b>	Red Paper or Plastic Delta Trap.	
<b>MONITORING STRATEGY</b>	Hang traps nearby host plants. When trapping for multiple insects, space traps out by at least 20 m. Check with Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.	
<b>CULTURAL &amp; PHYSICAL CONTROL</b>	Harvesting as soon as possible is recommended. If infestation is too great, clearance of the entire field may be necessary. Check for eggs or larvae feeding on the host plants, as well as for egg clusters on the surface of leaves. Remove infested segments as necessary or if possible, taking care to properly dispose of eggs to ensure less generational development.	

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Alpha Scents, Inc., 360 S. Sequoia Pkwy. Canby, OR 97013  
TEL: 503-342-8611 • FAX: 314-271-7297 • sales@alphascents.com • www.alphascents.com