






# Technical Bulletin for: **ALFALFA LOOPER**

*Autographa californica* (L.) • Lepidoptera, Noctuidae • AUTCAL



<b>DISTRIBUTION</b>	Western North America.
<b>HOSTS</b>	Alfalfa and peas.
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	
<b>ADULT MOTH</b>	Blue-gray, mottled with a wingspan of 16-21mm.
<b>LARVAE</b>	Green with a thin white lateral line, 1 to 1 ½ inches in length.
<b>EGGS</b>	Pale yellow, spherical, with ridges radiating from top to bottom.
<b>LIFE HISTORY</b>	Overwinter as pupae either in soil or in trash near the base of host plants. Moths begin emerging in late spring and adults lay eggs individually on weed hosts (mostly wild crucifers). Eggs hatch in 3 to 5 days and larvae feed for about two weeks before pupating in cocoons on the host plant or in trash. The total development time from egg to egg requires about 30 days. Adults emerge in about seven days, mate, and females deposit eggs as before about three days after emerging. Damage is most evident in June and July and again in September and October. There are three or four generations each year.

## MONITORING INFORMATION

<b>LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATES &amp; FIELD LIFE</b>	Z7-12Ac on red rubber septum. Field life: thirty (30) days.	
<b>TRAP TO USE</b>	Paper or Plastic Delta Trap	 
<b>MONITORING STRATEGY</b>	In smaller fields, use one trap every 1 to 1 ½ acre. A minimum of two traps should also be used for fields of uneven topography. For larger fields (10 acres or greater) use 1-2 traps per five acres. Traps should be placed at approximately the same height as the crop. Traps should be checked weekly or more frequently, depending on pest population. Check with Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.	
<b>CULTURAL &amp; PHYSICAL CONTROLS</b>	Weed control can significantly affect looper management. Eliminate concentrations of lambsquarters, mustard, and other weeds that attract and host looper moths.	

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