





Technical Bulletin for: Maize Stalk Borer

Busseola fusca (Fuller) • Lepidoptera: Noctuidae • BUSFUS



DISTRIBUTION	Native throughout Sub-Saharan Africa.
HOSTS	Primary hosts are maize and sorghum. Secondary hosts include millet and sugarcane.
DESCRIPTION	
ADULT	Wingspan of 25-30mm with light to darker brown forewings and white to grayish-brown hindwings.
LARVAE	Usually creamy white, often with a gray tinge. The head is a dark brown with a yellow-brown body.
EGGS	Creamy white and then darken before emergence of larvae, around 1mm in diameter.
LIFE HISTORY	Females will lay around 200 eggs in their lifetime of a few days. The eggs will hatch in 3 to 5 days and the pupae will feed for up to 5 weeks before pupating. Adults will emerge after 1-2 weeks. There can be up to three generations per year, but generally 1-2 generations is more common.

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE	Z11-14Ac; E11-14Ac; and Z9-14Ac on red rubber septum. Field life: four (4) weeks. 
TRAP TO USE	Paper or Plastic Delta Trap 
MONITORING STRATEGY	Check with Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROL	The use of <i>trap plants</i> , such as Napier grass or molasses grass, can help reduce damage done by this pest. In addition, silver leaf desmodium (<i>Desmodium uncinatum</i>) has been used as a repellent plant. As always, proper field sanitation is highly recommended.

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