




Technical Bulletin for: Tobacco Hornworm

Manduca sexta (L) • Lepidoptera: Sphingidae • MANSEX



DISTRIBUTION	Common in the Southern United States however, range extends as far north as New York.
HOSTS	Tomato and tobacco are the primary hosts, can sometimes be found in eggplant, pepper and potato.
DESCRIPTION	
ADULT MOTH	Dull grayish to grayish-brown in color with wingspan up to 100mm.
LARVAE	Green in color and can be up to 70mm in length.
EGGS	White to light green in color, spherical to oval and about 1.50mm in diameter.
LIFE HISTORY	Females mate one week after they emerge and will usually lay eggs on the underside of leaves. Larvae will feed on host plant until ready to pupate and then will burrow underground. Total life cycle is between 30 and 50 days. There can be 3 generations in Florida but two generations is the norm over most of the range.

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE	Pheromone saturated paper coaster in amber bags. Field life: forty-five (45) days. 
TRAP TO USE	Light Trap (image not available)
MONITORING STRATEGY	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.
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROLS	Soil tillage practices can result in up to 90% mortality of the pupae. Hand picking larvae is effective in home gardens.

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Alpha Scents, Inc., 1089 Willamette Falls Drive, West Linn, OR 97068
TEL: 503-342-8611 • FAX: 314-271-7297 • sales@alphascents.com • www.alphascents.com