





Technical Bulletin for: **Tomato Leaf Miner**

Tuta absoluta • Lepidoptera, Gelechiidae • TUTABS



DISTRIBUTION	Native to South America, however it has spread rapidly to the Mediterranean region and is now present in Southern Europe and Northern Africa as well as the Middle East. The pest has recently been found in Kenya, the Sudan and in Tanzania.
HOSTS	The primary host is tomato with potato reported as a secondary host.
DESCRIPTION	
ADULT MOTH	5-7mm in length with a wingspan of 8-10mm.
LARVAE	Small, yellowish and about 0.5mm in length. As they mature, larvae become yellow-green and a black band develops behind the head.
EGGS	Creamy white cylindrical about .35mm in length.
LIFE HISTORY	One female may deposit up to 250-260 eggs during her life which are deposited on plant parts above ground. Tuta are primarily nocturnal with and there are four larval instars before transforming into the pupal stage. The larval instars do not enter diapause when a food source is available.

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE	(E,Z,Z)-3,8,11-14Ac and BHT on a gray septum. Field life: four (4) weeks. 
TRAP TO USE	White Delta 
MONITORING STRATEGY	In open fields, use 10 to 20 traps per ha. Use 2-3 traps per ha in greenhouses. Check traps at least once per week. Check with Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROLS	Use good cultivation practices – immediately remove and destroy infested plants, keep weeds clear of the field and use appropriate netting in greenhouse environment.

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