

False Codling Moth

Thaumatotibia leucotreta



Pest Details

The False Codling Moth attacks its host fruit through a four-stage assault that begins with egg deposition on the rind, progresses to internal larval feeding, and culminates in pupation and adult emergence—often producing multiple generations per season. Adult females locate ripening fruit by sensing host volatiles, then lay single, flattened eggs directly on the fruit surface.

Eggs

Translucent white, flattened oval (0.9 mm diameter), typically laid on fruits of host plants.

Larvae

Yellowish-white caterpillars with dark head capsule, mature larvae grow up to 15 mm to 20mm.

Pupae

Mature larvae exit fruit and spins a cocoon under loose bark on tree trunks, fence posts or in the soil.

Adult

Male moths span approximately 15–16 mm across their wings, while females measure about 19–20 mm. Their forewings display an intermingling of grey, brown, black and orange-brown shades.

Economic Host(s)

A wide range of plants including roses, avocado, citrus, peach, guava, cotton, macadamia, sorghum and maize.

Crop Symptoms

Infested fruit develop tiny bore-holes where larvae penetrate the rind, with the surrounding skin turning yellow on green hosts or orange-brown on ripe fruit before collapsing into sunken brown lesions as the tissue decays.

Feeding larvae leave behind dark brown, granular frass that often protrudes from these entry or exit points.

Infected fruit often ripens ahead of schedule and drops prematurely.

Mode of Action	Active Sex Pheromone attractant
Active Component(s)	(E)-8-Dodecenyl acetate (Z)-8-Dodecenyl acetate (E)-7-Dodecenyl acetate
Available Products	1mg Standard Lure
Dispenser Details	Natural Rubber Septum
Active Life	8 weeks

Monitoring

Adults present

All year round

Trap Positioning

6-10 traps/Ha for monitoring, and >10 traps/Ha for mass trapping.

Hang the trap at least 1.5 to 2 meters high to allow for maximum airflow to distribute the semiochemical molecules across the orchard.

Ensure trap entrances remain free from obstructing branches and leaves.

Recommended Traps



Red Delta Trap

Trap Maintenance

Inspect the traps on a regular basis.

Replace the sticky cards once they become coated with dust or crowded with trapped insects.

Replace the pheromone dispensers every 8 weeks to achieve optimum results.

Storage

Keep refrigerated at 4°C for a shelf life of 18 months or freeze for an extended life of 24 months.

Keep out of reach of children.