Technical Bulletin for:

True Armyworm

Psudaletia unipuncta (Haworth) • Lepidoptera, *Noctuidae* • PSUUNI

DISTRIBUTION	Throughout the USA and parts of Canada, South America, Southern Europe, Africa and Asia.
HOSTS	Grasses and cereals are preferred but sometimes on various vegetables, fruits, legumes, and weeds. Most common hosts include corn, sorghum, and small grains including wheat.
DESCRIPTION	
ADULT MOTH	Grayish-brown forewings, each with a white spot near the center, and grayish-white hind wings. The wingspan is about 38.5 mm
LARVAE	At first pale green then yellowish- or brownish-green with a tan or greenish brown head, mottled with dark brown. The body is smooth and practically hairless with three, longitudinal, dark stripes: one along each side and one down the back, 30-35 mm.
EGGS	White and glossy laid at night, in clusters of up to 5-200, at the base of host plants.
LIFE HISTORY	Female lays 700-1400 eggs. Larvae develop in 21-28 days. Adults emerge after 2-3 weeks as pupae inside the soil. There are 2-5 generations per year.

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE	(Z)-11-Hexadecenyl acetate, (Z)-11-Hexadecenal and (Z)-11-Hexadecen-1-ol in a Red Rubber Septum. Field life: four (4) weeks. 
TRAP TO USE	Red Paper or Plastic Delta Trap  
MONITORING STRATEGY	Pheromone traps should be suspended at canopy height, preferably on corn, during the whorl stage. Change the trap and lure every 4 weeks or more frequently depending on temperature and dusty conditions. Monitor moth populations between April and mid-December. Check with your local Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROLS	Early planting and/or early maturing varieties. Early harvest allows many corn ears to escape the higher armyworm densities that develop later in the season. Destroying grassy weeds, 1-2 weeks before seeding, will minimize the risk of attracting egg laying moths and subsequent infestations.

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