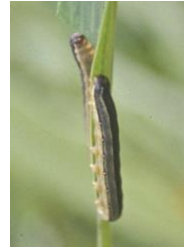









Technical Bulletin for: Nutgrass Armyworm

Spodoptera exempta (Walker) • Lepidoptera, Noctuidae • SPOEXE



DISTRIBUTION	Widely in Africa south of the Sahara and in south-western Arabia, and more intermittently in the eastern Indian Ocean and Pacific areas.
HOSTS	Pastures and cereal crops (maize, wheat, sorghum, millet, teff and rice).
DESCRIPTION	
ADULT MOTH	Dull gray or brown with a wingspan of 20-37 mm.
LARVAE	Solitary caterpillars are green-brown or pink while gregarious caterpillars become blackish as they grow.
EGGS	Whitish when first laid but darken just prior to hatching.
LIFE HISTORY	Female moths lay eggs at night in batches of 10 to 300 eggs in one or more layers on the leaves of the host plants, or sometimes on other surfaces (e.g. dry grasses, leaves of tall plants, twigs of bushes and trees, or on buildings). The egg mass is covered with black hairs from the female. The eggs hatch after 2 to 5 days, depending on temperature.

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE	(Z)-9-Tetradecenyl acetate, (Z,E)-9,12-Tetradecadienyl acetate, and (Z)-11-Hexadecenyl acetate in a Red Rubber Septum. Field life: four (4) weeks. 
TRAP TO USE	Red Paper or Plastic Delta Trap or Uni-Trap    
MONITORING STRATEGY	Place traps in spring above crop canopy before moth emergence. Change the trap every 4 weeks or more frequently depending on trap catch and debris. Monitor moth populations between late March and mid-December. Check with your local Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROLS	Avoid burning and overgrazing of grasslands which are the natural habitat and food store of the caterpillars. Burning often causes outbreaks because as soon as temperatures rise, eggs are laid in large quantities on the fresh new grass. Also if their natural habitat and food is unavailable they will attack other crops.

Alpha Scents, Inc.
insect monitoring systems

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