



Early Warning Monitoring Systems

Technical Bulletin

Cigarette beetle

The STORGARD monitoring system for the Cigarette beetle (*Lasioderma serricorne*) is a cost effective method of detecting beetle activity at the earliest possible stages. It utilizes a synthetic sex pheromone that lures adult Cigarette beetles, into a specially designed trap that contains a sticky capture surface. Early detection of beetle activity allows control measures to be employed before large quantities of stored food products are contaminated by larvae.

Each STORGARD kit contains enough materials for six weeks of continuous monitoring.

Pheromone Attractant

In addition to the Cigarette beetle sex pheromone, which attracts males only; a Cigarette beetle kairomone (CB+K) may be added to also lure and attract female beetles

Pheromones are chemicals that adult insects produce to communicate with each other. The synthetic pheromone in the STORGARD system simulates the natural lure female insects use to attract adult males for mating purposes.

Trap Design

A STORGARD II trap is employed in the STORGARD monitoring system for the Cigarette beetle. It has been used extensively for monitoring many agricultural pests and was selected for the STORGARD system because of its efficacy in capturing flying insects.

When to Monitor

As a general rule, most insect development ceases at average temperatures below 55°F. In heated warehouses or in warm climates a year-around monitoring program is essential for early detection of stored product pests. Even in unheated storage areas in cold climates, it is important to recognize locations that may provide sources of heat. For example, temperatures surrounding machinery may be sufficient to promote insect development even though temperatures nearby are below the 55° threshold.

Trap Density and Placement

A good rule when beginning a monitoring program is to place traps in a grid pattern at intervals of 30 feet to 50 feet. Tighten the grid as needed in order to pinpoint the source of an infestation.

Other areas where traps should be placed are near suspected sources of contamination, such as in or around equipment and close to ducts where dust may accumulate.

Continued on back

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Trap Height

The main criteria for selecting trap height are convenience for monitoring personnel and protection against damage by equipment, water, etc. Although trap height is not critical, research has shown that capture efficiency can be maximized by hanging traps close to the ceiling, which may be done by using pulley systems.

Trap Inspection

Traps should be inspected at least once a week and twice weekly if an infestation is suspected. In some situations it may be desirable to check traps every day. Since moths are active at night, daily inspections should be made in the morning. Keep a record of the number of insects caught in each trap and the monitoring site.

Service and Storage

The STORGARD monitoring system requires a minimum of service. However, it is important to replace the pheromone attractant caps every six weeks since their attractant properties eventually degrade. Removal of dead insects and debris from liners when traps are inspected is an option. Replace the sticky capture surface when the pheromone is replaced, or more often under dusty conditions.

Please note: Like film, batteries and similar products, pheromone caps should be stored in a cool place. For longest possible storage life, store pheromone caps in a refrigerator and keep them in their foil pouches.

STORGARD systems are also available for monitoring insects of the genera *Trogoderma*, *Tribolium*, and *Oryzaephilus*. Their use is described in a separate bulletin.

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