

February 19, 2018

Dear Cooperator in the 2018 Black Cutworm Monitoring Project:

Welcome! Thank you for agreeing to monitor black cutworm pheromone traps this spring. These traps can provide 2-3 weeks advance warning on when and where to expect cutting damage from black cutworms. Your efforts will greatly enhance our ability to detect black cutworm migrations into Minnesota this spring and predict.

TRAP CONSTRUCTION

Your trap has 3 basic components; a plastic top, a lure that contains a sex attractant for male black cutworms, and a waxed paper bottom with a sticky surface that will trap incoming moths. Follow the enclosed instructions to construct your trap. Please call my office if you have any questions. This packet contains two extra lures and two extra bottoms. These extra items should be used to replace their counterparts every two to three weeks or as needed. *Please keep the extra pheromones in the freezer while not in use.*

PLACEMENT OF TRAPS

Locate traps in an area that is easily accessible to you and away from nighttime lighting (dusk to dawn or security lights). Black cutworm moths are nocturnal and electric lights (e.g. safety or yard lights) will compete with the pheromone trap. You may hang the trap from a tree limb or fence post, but try to keep the trap mounted at shoulder height. The lure releases a sex attractant that drifts with the wind; therefore, placement of the trap on the lee side of an obstruction to S or SW winds (hill, farm grove, fencerow, etc.) is preferable as long as suitable air flow exists. Avoid locating the trap where air flow is restricted (depression or stream bottom). To facilitate trap monitoring, try to place the trap where it is readily accessible to you. *Do not hesitate to relocate the trap if you feel the location is not working out.*

TRAP MAINTENANCE

Pheromone traps are fairly specific in the insects they attract. You will no doubt capture a few insects that are not black cutworm moths. If you have not monitored black cutworms before, I have enclosed a color photograph of the moth to aid in your identification of black cutworms. Captured moths should be removed daily with a nail, stick or similar object to prevent recounts. Record captures on the master data sheet.

REPORTING YOUR DATA

As a trap monitor, your responsibility is to *check the trap daily* and record the results on the Excel spreadsheet provided. *Report these results every Friday* by emailing the Excel spreadsheet to Travis Vollmer at tvollmer@umn.edu or by faxing the data to (507) 752-5097.

If your trap captures 8 or more moths over a 2-night period, send an email with the trap location and the night(s) with the high capture to Travis or call (507) 752-5091 and leave a message. A flight of this magnitude represents a population of cutworms large enough to potentially cause economic injury to susceptible corn. Any fields un-worked at this time could suffer damage and should be watched closely in two to three weeks.

INFORMATION ON BLACK CUTWORM

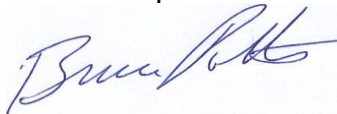
Data will be collected from around the state and a summary map, which indicates where significant captures have occurred, will be prepared. This map and a short newsletter will be sent to you each week. This information will also be posted on the web at: swroc.cfans.umn.edu/node/336. In addition, the website contains information on the black cutworm, its biology, damage to crops and management decisions.

If you have any further questions regarding the 2018 Black Cutworm Monitoring Project, please call Bruce Potter (IPM Specialist – Lamberton) at (507) 752-5066 or Travis Vollmer at (507) 752-5091.

Again, thank you for your cooperation. Without your help, advance warning of black cutworm problems would not be possible.

Sincerely,

Bruce Potter
IPM Specialist



Black cutworm moth ID



Black cutworm moth ID

Length: Approximately 1 Inch long

Wingspan: 1.25 – 2 Inches

Forewing - mottled dark brown/gray with a lighter band on outer edge. A black "dagger" (yellow line) is visible on specimens with intact wing scales.

Hindwing - light gray/brown with darker veins on outer wing margins