

2020 True Armyworm (TAW) Trapping and Reporting Instructions

True armyworm (TAW) moths migrate to Ontario in early spring from overwintering sites from the southern US but has been known to overwinter as north as Pennsylvania. Pheromone traps help to detect their arrival and understand which regions and crops may be at risk. Adult moths prefer to lay their eggs in grassy vegetation that is present in early spring (April to May), including grassy weeds, cereals, grassy forages and rye cover crop. Corn, especially if under seeded with rye, grassy forages and winter wheat are at risk of the early spring (first generation) while spring cereals and grassy forages are more at risk of second generation (late June-July infestations). Traps can be set up at the fields edge of corn, mixed forages and cereal fields to monitor for both the first and second generations.

The **Trap Set Up Instructions** are below. **Trap Monitoring and Reporting Instructions** are on Page 2. Click on the following for a [TAW Trap Supply List and TAW Trap Supply Companies.](#)

Trap Set Up Instructions

1. Use 1 trap per field. Set up traps in early April and monitor until the end of July. There are two peak flights (two generations). As each peak flight approaches, plan to monitor the traps more frequently. Bucket traps can fill up quickly and moths can rub against each other losing their markings.
2. Position the trap on the prevailing wind side, along the edge of the field. This ensures that the pheromone plume will carry into the field being monitoring and give a better indication of moth activity within that field.
3. Mount the trap so that it hangs from a stake or T bar so that the bottom of the trap is 1 metre above the ground (Fig. 1). Do not use a bucket trap that was previously used to monitor for western bean cutworm.
4. One lure is placed inside the small cage area (Fig. 2) hanging from the roof of the bucket trap while the vapour strip is placed inside at the bottom of the bucket (Fig.3). Discard spent lures back home or the office (not in the field).



Figure 1. TAW Bucket Trap is set up to hang 1 metre from the ground, along the fields' edge. NOTE: All white or yellow and white traps work better than all green bucket traps though the yellow and white traps can capture bees too. Use all white traps if available to reduce this risk. Photo credit: Marissa Schuh, MSU Extension



Figure 2. Pheromone lure is placed inside the cage above the funnel and is changed every three weeks.



Figure 3. Vapour strip is taped inside the bottom of the bucket and lasts the entire season.

Note – images show an all green bucket but white and yellow or all white bucket traps are best for TAW.

Trap Monitoring and Reporting Instructions

1. Traps should be checked at least weekly. A trap week is considered Monday to Sunday.
2. Enter trap sites and weekly trap counts into the Great Lakes and Maritimes Pest Monitoring Network at: <https://arcg.is/OaWqr0>
3. For mapping purposes, we require traps to be checked no later than Tuesday of each week and trap count data need to be entered into the network by Tuesday. Trap counts entered are always for the previous week's moth catch.
4. As we approach peak flight, traps may need to be checked more than once a week so that moths are still easy to identify and have not lost all of their markings.
5. Change the TAW pheromone lures **every 2 weeks** so that the pheromone plume is strong enough to attract the moths to the trap. Discard the spent lure back at the office or at home.

TAW Moth Identification



True armyworm moths are light reddish-brown in colour. They are the same size as western bean cutworm moths (4 cm long). They have angular appearance to them with faint lines running down the middle of each wing with a white dot near the end of the lines.

Photo credit: J. Gavloski, Manitoba Agriculture.