

2020 Western Bean Cutworm (WBC) Trapping and Reporting Instructions

Pheromone traps are used to monitor for and when scouting is critical. Corn fields approaching pre-tassel to full tassel stages are most attractive to the females depositing their eggs. Monitoring traps and paying attention to crop stage each week can help you determine which fields are most at risk and should be scouted first. If corn in the area is in brown silk stage, moths will instead deposit eggs in dry beans, if available or later planted corn fields that are still in the ideal growth stages. Ideally scout the same fields for three consecutive weeks.

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

Trap Set Up Instructions

1. Use 1 trap per corn field, 2 traps per dry bean field.
2. Traps should be monitored at least weekly starting in early June until late August or early September. As peak flight approaches, plan to monitor the traps more frequently as the buckets can fill up quickly and the moths can rub against each other losing their markings used to identify them.
3. Position the trap on the prevailing wind side of the corn field, along the edge but not within the corn rows. This ensures that the pheromone plume will carry into the field being monitoring and give a better indication of moth activity within that field. For dry beans, place two traps, each on opposite's sides of the field (or at least 50 metre apart from each other).
4. Mount the trap so that it hangs from a stake or T bar so that the bottom of the trap is 4 feet above the ground (Fig. 1).
5. 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. WBC Bucket Trap is set up to hang 4 feet from the ground, along the fields' edge.



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.

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://arccg.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 WBC pheromone lures **every 3 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.

WBC Moth Look A Likes



Western bean cutworm

Long triangle shape with white bands along wing margin and a moon and boomerang marking on each wing. J. Smith, UGRC

Dingy cutworm

Similar shape as WBC (long triangle) but has a hill instead of a full moon on its wing. John Davis, Bugguide.net

Yellow Striped Armyworm

Wide triangle shape. More markings than WBC. No full moon or boomerang markings. MJ Hatfield, Bugguide.net

Large Yellow Underwing

Wide triangle shape. No white bands along wing margin. Very yellow or orange underwings. Jim Moore, Bugguide.net



What WBC really look like in the trap. WBC moths lose their wing markings the longer they are in the trap. Find the freshest moths in the trap to ID. If most of the moths are the same long triangle shape as the ones that you can ID, they are all likely WBC. T. Baute, OMAFRA