

2021 Fall Armyworm (TAW) Trapping and Reporting Instructions

Fall armyworm (FAW) moths migrate to Ontario in mid summer (July to August) from overwintering sites from the southern US. Pheromone traps help to detect their arrival and understand which regions and crops may be at risk. Late planted corn fields are at higher risk as moths will be more attractive to these fields compared to earlier planted fields in the area.

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

Trap Set Up Instructions

1. Use 1 bucket traps (**Yellow and White versions**) per field. Set up traps in mid to late June and monitor until mid-September. As each peak flight approaches, 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.
3. Mount the trap so that it hangs from a stake or T bar so that **the bottom of the trap is 1.5 metres above the ground** (Fig. 1). Do not use a bucket trap that was previously used to monitor for other moth pests as it will already be contaminated with the pheromone specific to that pest.
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). **Change the lure every 2 weeks.** Discard spent lures back home or the office (not in the field).



Figure 1. FAW Bucket Trap is set up to hang 1.5 metres 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 or side 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 more effective for FAW.

Trap Monitoring and Reporting Instructions

1. Traps should be checked at least weekly. Enter trap site info and weekly trap counts into the Great Lakes and Maritimes Pest Monitoring Network at: <https://arcg.is/0Lry5a>.
2. Trap counts entered are always for the previous week's moth catch.
3. 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.
4. Change the FAW 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.

FAW Moth Identification



Fall armyworm moths are dark grey and brown coloured moths with a mottled pattern on their wings and a prominent white spot on the very tip. Antennae are thin and hair like.

Photo credit: J Obermeyer Purdue University.

FAW Moth Look a Likes



Dingy cutworm moths have very defined patterns on their wings but do not have large white spots at the wing tips like FAW moths have.



Western bean cutworm moths have white wing margins and a moon and boomerang spots on each wing.