**False codling moth on pepper**

*Cryptophlebia leucotreta*

**Prevention**
- Avoid growing pepper in close proximity to alternate host crops, e.g., cotton, tomatoes, okra, egg plants, pigeon pea and sweet potato.
- Use trap count information to determine if the moth will be a serious pest in your area; if numbers are high, consider planting elsewhere or planting an alternative crop.
- Plough before transplanting during the dry spell to expose the larvae/pupae to the natural enemies and extremes of heat.
- Minimize use of pesticides to conserve natural enemies like spiders, parasitic wasps, praying mantis, ants and birds.
- Gather and burn pepper sticks, stubbles and remaining fruits after harvest.

**Monitoring**
- Begin monitoring for false codling moths at seeding stage, scout weekly on plants for eggs and adults of moths.
- Eggs are spherical, flattened, 10-15 rows of toothed ribs, ranging from white, cream and dark brown. Larvae are green-brown with rows of dark bristled tubercles along their back.
- Search for larvae at the base of developing fruits and flower buds. Look for fruits or floral buds that have fallen to the ground and rosetted flowers and check for larvae.
- Use pheromone traps to attract male adults (1 trap for every 5 acres) and act if you trap more than 7 in one night.
- Take action when 5-10 caterpillars are observed or when 10% of plants examined contain eggs.

**Direct Control**
- Delay use of insecticides as long as possible to allow build-up of natural enemies e.g., Trichogramma, lacewing and pirate bugs.
- Hand pick and crush caterpillars at initial infestation, check early in the morning or late in the evening before they return into the fruit.
- Mix equal quantities of sawdust, bran and molasses with enough water to make the mixture sticky and spread around the base of the plants in the evenings.
- Drench at flowering and fruiting stages with Azadirachtin 0.03% (e.g., Nimbedicine EC, Nematech WG) to reduce infestation drastically.

**Restrictions**
- When using a pesticide or botanical, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label.
- Do not use chemicals with the same mode of action year after year as this can lead to resistance. Always consult the most recent list of registered pesticides of MOFA, Ghana.
- WHO class II - (moderately hazardous), 3 applications per season, PHI 5 days. Skin irritants, harmful to bees and aquatic organisms. Do not use near water ways.
- WHO class II - (moderately hazardous), 3 applications per season, PHI 5 days. Skin irritants, toxic to non-target organisms (e.g. pollinators).
- WHO class II - (moderately hazardous), 3 applications per season, PHI 5 days. Skin irritants, Very toxic to aquatic organisms, do not use near water ways.

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**Ghana**

*CREATED/UPDATED:*
**AUTHOR(S):** Benjamin K. Badii (University for Development Studies), Antony Cudjoe (Private Consultant) and Maxwell Awuku (Chemico Ghana Ltd.)

*EDITED BY: Plantwise*

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