




False codling moth on citrus

Thaumatotibia leucotreta

	Prevention	Monitoring	Direct Control
 <p>False codling moth larvae (Marja van der Straten, NVWA Plant Protection Service, Bugwood.org)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove weeds and alternate hosts from the orchard and surrounding areas (such as mango, cotton, guava etc.). Use appropriate levels of irrigation, as overwatering has been noted to increase infestation levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively monitor for false codling moth from seedling stage through to the fruiting stage. Symptoms of infestation are difficult to identify to the pest activity occurring internally within plant parts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During low infestation, handpick and destroy larvae by burning or burying. Do this during the early morning or late afternoon when the caterpillars are most likely to be outside of the fruit.
 <p><i>T. leucotreta</i> pupae (J.H. Hofmeyr, Citrus Research International. Bugwood.org)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove residual plant material leftover from the previous harvest to reduce potential spread of infestation into new crops. Avoid the use of broad spectrum insecticides to conserve natural enemies such as ants, spiders and parasitic wasps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eggs are less than 1 mm long, oval and flattened. They can be found laid in rows or individually. Larvae are yellow/white with dark spots. Colouration changed during development to bright red/pink with a yellow/brown head (15 mm long). Young larvae are commonly found burrowed into leaves and fruit. Open fallen citrus fruit and observe for larval presence. Be sure to destroy fruit after inspection by burning or burying 60-90 cm deep. Use pheromone bait traps to catch adult moths (1 trap per 5 acres), inspect every week. If more than 5 moths are caught in a trap then consider direct control actions for immediate use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect fallen and infested fruit and place in a clear, plastic bag and leave in the sun to kill any larvae. If available, release <i>Trichogramma</i> spp. Parasitoids or other pest enemies to control existing populations.
 <p>Adult moth (Marja van der Straten, NVWA Plant Protection Service, Bugwood.org)</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of specialised pheromone traps (1 trap per 5 acres) using anti-mating chemicals to disrupt mating behaviour between male and female moths.

Note: Pesticides may be available to control this pest. Please check with the Ministry of Agriculture in your country to find out which pesticides are registered in your country and the local restrictions for their use.