



FAW GUIDANCE NOTE 3

FALL ARMYWORM TRAPPING



The presence and build-up of FAW in a particular area can be detected by using pheromone traps.

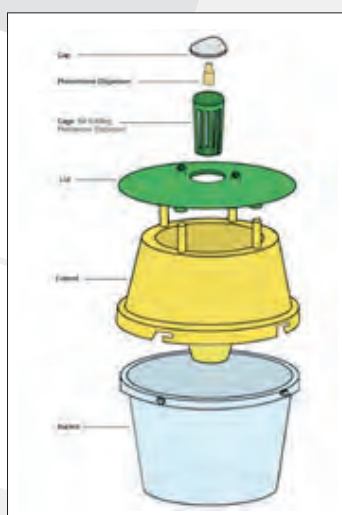
Pheromones are natural compounds that are emitted by female FAW moths to attract male moths for mating. Synthetic compounds that mimic natural FAW pheromones, often referred to as lures, are placed in traps to attract and trap male moths. Moths that are caught are then counted. From these numbers, farmers can know if FAW is present in their fields and if there is a need for increased scouting.

Funnel or bucket (unitrap, universal trap) is the preferred trap for FAW

- Green lid/yellow funnel/white bucket
- Male moths are attracted by a pheromone and caught inside a round bucket
- High moth catches, sturdy, reusable, can be deployed for long period
- Can fill with water; attracts bees, other insects, spiders and frogs

There may be other similar home-made traps from empty plastic soda bottles.

Traps should be placed in the field just after planting and counting should start **after emergence** of



the seedling in order to best detect the first arrival of moths. A suitable location should be selected for positioning a trap. The selected site should be inside or on the edge of a maize field, or in an open area nearby. The trap should be hung from a suspended pole or branch about **1.5 m** above the ground. One trap should be used for every **0.5–2 ha**.



The traps should be checked **two times per week** by counting the number of FAW moths inside:

1. open the bucket trap by an anti-clockwise twisting of the low transparent bucket at the bottom of the trap while holding firmly the yellow funnel on top;
2. create a clean flat surface and invert the bucket to pour out the moths onto this surface;
3. remove any non-FAW moths and insects that may have been caught in the trap;
4. carefully count the number of FAW moths by putting counted ones to one side;
5. if you are in doubt as to whether the moth is FAW, then compare with the figure.

Information collected when checking pheromone traps should be carefully recorded, ideally in a mobile app, so that it can be shared and used for early warning. Each trap should have its own unique identification code using a standard format (XX999999 where XX is the country code and 999999 is the trap number starting from 0). This system can manage up to 1 million traps per country.

Location: 0°3'51" N / 32°26'49" E						
Date checked	FAW confirmed	FAW suspected	Other species	Trap replaced	Lure replaced	Lure name
15/11/2017	2	4	10	n	n	
18/11/2017	4	0	5	y	y	

The pheromone lure usually needs to be replaced **every 3–6 weeks** to achieve optimum results, depending on temperature, pheromone components and release characteristics. This means about five lures will be required for one trap for a single maize growing season.

Unopened pheromone dispensers should be stored within an air-tight bags, tightly sealed glass containers or foil pouches, preferably inside a refrigerator or freezer to achieve up to two years shelf life. Pheromones degrade rapidly if exposed to bright light or high temperatures. Therefore, dispensers should be kept inside their sealed packaging until ready to use.

Not all commercially-available lures are the same. Different companies use different number, combinations and percentages of the different identified key components of the FAW pheromone. This affects the capture of male FAW and other moths, and therefore makes lure standardization and moth identification so important.

A trap should never have more than one lure at a time. To activate the bucket trap, put the lure into the red rubber septum and then put the septum in the green colored receptacle. The receptacle is then plugged into a hole on top of the green cap, which provides the roof of the bucket trap. The receptacle is then covered by a white lid. During lure replacement, the receptacle cap is simply removed and the rubber septa inserted into it.



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18322EN/1/01.18

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