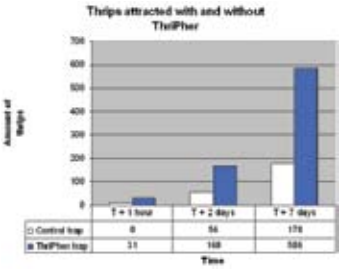
ThriPher:
A sexual pheromone to help control western flower thrips

1 INTRODUCTION

ThriPher lures contain a sexual aggregation pheromone to attract western flower thrips (*Frankliniella occidentalis)*. For a period of 4 to 6 weeks, both male and female adult thrips are attracted and lured away from their shelters. This pheromone is specific to western flower thrips; so harmless thrips and beneficial insects are left alone.

2 QUICK AND EARLY DETECTION

Usually, thrips are already present in a crop for some time before they are detected on sticky traps. As a consequence, a thrips population can grow without being noticed. The use of ThriPher in combination with the blue BUG-SCAN® sticky traps allows to detect thrips at an early stage. The pheromone lure attracts two to three times as many thrips to the sticky trap compare to using the sticky trap alone, which leads to an earlier detection. This enables growers to control more efficiently thrips population with natural enemies or with chemical crop protection products.



GUIDELINES

- Place the ThriPher lure in one of the holes of the blue BUG-SCAN® sticky trap.
- Fix the trap maximum 30 cm above the crop.
- Use at least 1 lure per 100 m².
- Replace the lures after 4 to 6 weeks.
- Replace the sticky traps as soon as they are completely covered with thrips.
- Always use gloves when you touch the lures; this will prevent any loss of efficacy.

3 CHEMICAL CONTROL BY MEANS OF THRIPHER LURES PLACED ON STICKY TRAPS

Both male and female thrips are attracted to the pheromone. After exposure to the pheromone they will leave their shelters and move to the upper parts of the crop to mate. Therefore more thrips are exposed to pesticides. Spraying in combination with the use of the pheromone can cause an extra reduction of 30% or more!

Install sticky traps and lures two hours before the chemical treatment as described above. The phero-mone lures can be reused up to six times if put in the freezer after the treatment. If the lures are left on the sticky trap, they remain effective for 4 to 6 weeks.

4 CHEMICAL CONTROL BY MEANS OF THRIPHER VIA THE CO_2 DOSING SYSTEM

A practical approach is to place the pheromone in the CO_2-main before a pesticide treatment. Below you can find the technical explanation.

Look for a suitable location in the CO_2-main to make an opening. The picture to the right shows an ideal saddle piece installation. Using the saddle piece and a PVC end piece with screw cover, the main can be sealed well.

When mounting the saddle piece, pay attention to the correct diameter of the CO_2-main and the opening on which the PVC end piece with screw cover can be glued. On the picture the CO_2-main has a diameter of 400 mm and the inlet a diameter of 125 mm. The above mentioned PVC accessories can be delivered in different sizes and models.

Measure the length of the saddle piece plus the diameter of the CO_2-main (in this example: 200 mm + 400 mm = 600 mm). Then take a piece of a PVC pipe of the measured length with a smaller diameter than the inlet (in the example above 110 mm) and close one of the two ends with a cover.

Bore about ten holes with a diameter smaller than the pheromone lures (± 5 mm) into the PVC pipe. More holes in the pipe means more pheromone will enter the CO_2 stream and ultimately the greenhouse.

Place the pheromone lures in the PVC pipe with the holes, then close the pipe. Push the entire pipe containing the pheromone lures into the inlet and close it with the screw cover.

GUIDELINES

- Use at least 1 lure per 100 m^2.
- Replace lures after six applications via the CO_2 dosing system.
- Place the lure at least 2 hours prior to the treatment in the CO_2-main.
- Remove the lures after the application from the CO_2-main to avoid an overdose and the needless use of the pheromone.
- Store the lures in a sealed package at a temperature of – 18 °C.
- ThriPher is delivered in a hermetic pack containing 10 lures.
- Sealed packages can be stored at 4°C for 8 weeks and at -18°C for 2 years.

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Biobest Belgium N.V., Ilse Velden 18, B-2260 Westerlo — Tel.: +32 (0)14 25 79 80
Fax: +32 (0) 14 25 79 82 — e-mail: info@biobest.be — www.biobest.be