

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT TRAPS FOR SPRUCE BUDWORM MOTHS

WHAT IS A PHEROMONE TRAP?

Pheromone traps are used for sampling, monitoring or determining the first appearance of a pest in an area. Because they lure budworm moths with sex pheromones, they are highly species-specific. The traps also are reusable, relatively inexpensive (approximately \$14/trap – including killing agent and lure;), and easy to place (three traps/site). They attract budworm moths even when the moths are present at very low densities.

WHERE DO I GET TRAPS?

MFS will provide traps at no cost to landowners.

WHEN WOULD I PLACE THE TRAPS?

During the first three weeks of June, before the moth flight, which usually occurs from the end of June through July.

WHERE AND HOW DO I PLACE TRAPS?

Training will be provided, but three traps are generally placed on mature or pole-sized trees in uncut or lightly cut spruce-fir stands.

HOW OFTEN WILL I NEED TO CHECK TRAPS?

Although a sub set of traps may be monitored daily or weekly to check for flights, the sites surveyed by landowners need only be visited twice: once to set out the traps and once to collect the moths and retrieve the traps.

WHEN DO I COLLECT THE TRAPS?

From August to early October. Then you empty all three traps into a ziplock bag marked with the sample site location and send it to the MFS lab in Augusta. Keep the traps to put out next year.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE SAMPLES COLLECTED?

MFS entomologists analyze the numbers and locations of moths collected to assess the budworm population and the risk to spruce-fir.

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT TO PARTICIPATE OR FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Charlene Donahue, 207-287-2431, Insect & Disease Laboratory, 168 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333.

INFORMATION COURTESY OF THE MAINE FOREST SERVICE



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