

Tutalab

Use in monitoring and mass trapping of *Tuta absoluta*

The tomato leaf miner, *Tuta absoluta* (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae) is a moth that causes damage to tomato, eggplant and other Solanaceae. It is a pest native to South America which is widely spread in Europe and Africa.

In warm areas, it may have between 10 to 12 generations, persisting throughout the year. Temperature affects considerably the development of this species. The life cycle can last 29 days at 30°C and extend until 89 days at 15°C. Low temperatures affect drastically the survival of this species.

Females can lay 40-50 eggs up to 260 during their lifetime. Larvae can attack fruit, leaves or stems. They bore into the leaf consuming the mesophyll creating as a result irregular galleries that can necrose. The damage is therefore detected in the form of galleries in stem, flower and fruit. Once the fruit is injured by this species, it can be secondarily attacked by other pests or diseases.



Tuta absoluta
Lepidoptera:
Gelechiidae

CONTROL MANAGEMENT

In pest detection and monitoring using sex pheromones, it is possible to determine the distribution and population density of pest insects.

Monitoring is useful for predicting the timing of adult emergence, and thus, capture thresholds can be established for the adoption of complementary control measures.



FORMULATION

The product TUTALAB is a dispenser comprising the compound (E,Z,Z)-(3,8,11)-tetradecatrienyl acetate. This product is described as the main component of the sex pheromone of *Tuta absoluta*.

The dispenser is a rubber septum containing the active ingredient. The material of the septum allows the emission of the product at a controlled rate.

In regular weather conditions, the field life of the dispenser is 40-45 days, although it may be reduced at high temperatures or strong winds.



APPLICATION

- Water traps with the corresponding dispenser should be put in the plot since the very beginning of planting. Each dispenser will be put into the basket in the water trap. The traps should be filled with water and some odorless detergent. Each trap should be put 30 cm above the ground.

- The trap density recommended is 25 water traps per hectare placed in an alternate homogeneous distribution. In case pest pressure is very high then 40 traps/ha is recommended to be placed. If most of the captures are observed in one specific part of the plot, then the number of traps in this area should be increased.



(redistributing the traps placed).

- It is advisable to monitor some traps in order to check the population level and if a complementary chemical treatment is recommended to be applied.
 - Water traps should be kept full of water with some droplets of detergent. Also it is convenient to remove the insects captured in the traps regularly in order to avoid saturation of the devices.
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HANDLING AND STORAGE

TOTALAB dispensers are supplied in packages with the convenient number of units. The material of the packing is impermeable to vapor of the different products. It is recommended to keep the product in its original packaging, unopened in the freezer until ready to use. Under these conditions, the product can be stored for at least two years.

With the usual handling of the product, there is no risk of toxicity on people, animals or plants. The product is a dispenser that emits to the air vapors of the active substance at a low controlled rate (0.004 mg/day and dispenser). For the same reason, risk of water and soil pollution may be excluded. The dispensers used and their packaging must be managed according to current legislation for residues disposal.



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comercial@sedq.es