

Good Agricultural Practice Procedures for the control of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (false codling moth) on table grapes

1. NATURE AND SCOPE OF PROBLEM

Thaumatotibia leucotreta, false codling moth (FCM) is a minor pest of table grapes in South Africa. FCM is a sporadic pest in the Western Cape and can breed in many different host plants outside of vineyards. Effective monitoring of population levels is required to be aware of infestations and to prevent infected fruit from being packed for export. FCM generally appears late in the season and is difficult to control, therefore an effective fruit damage monitoring system needs to be in place.

2. MONITORING

- FCM pheromone traps should be placed in vineyards where FCM infestation is suspected or where it occurred during the previous season. Traps should be placed at a frequency of 1 trap per 4 ha, and traps should not be closer than 150 – 200 m to each other. Inspect traps weekly and record all FCM trap catches. Maintain traps according to label specifications. **Note:** the presence of moths in traps is not a reliable indication of infestations. Fruit damage assessments must be conducted as well.
- During the standard two-weekly scouting of vineyards, grapes must also be inspected for the presence of FCM and any occurrence thereof recorded.
The protocol for fruit damage assessments is based on 20 plots of 5 vines per plot in 1 ha blocks on farms of up to 25 ha. On larger farms the number of plots per hectare can be reduced. However, there should not be less than 500 plots of 5 vines on the farm and there should not be less than 10 plots per ha. In all cases the plots should be evenly spaced. Scouting in each vineyard should be conducted on the last variety to be harvested.
Inspect 1 bunch per vine and classify each bunch as infested or uninfested.
- In those vineyard blocks bordering the town, or citrus and stone fruit orchards, or vineyards infested with FCM in the previous season, inspections should commence weekly from mid-December. In these high risk areas inspections should be confined to the first 4 rows bordering the potential source of infestation.

3. CONTROL

Cultural safeguarding measures

Vineyard sanitation is very important. All infested and fallen fruit must be removed and disposed of by either burying under 500 cm of soil, or by pulping with a hammermill. Pulping must take place at least 30 m from the nearest vineyard fruit must be spread in a manner that it can sun-dry as rapidly as possible.

After harvest all vineyards on the farm must be stripped of fruit, which must be disposed of.

Packhouses

Packhouse workers must be trained in identification of infested fruit. Rejected fruit must be removed from the packhouse and destroyed.

4. RECORDS

The following records should be kept in good order and be available at all times for inspection:

- Weekly trap counts
- Two-weekly scouting results
- Dates when lures are changed
- Vineyard sanitation programme