

# CODLING MOTH (*Cydia* or *Laspeyresia pomonella*)



Larva inside  
fruit core



Codling 'sting' on Fruit



Adult Moth

Typical Pheromone Trap for  
monitoring male Codling Moth



Cocoon on  
bark



# **CODLING MOTH**

## **Description**

Codling moth attacks the fruit of apple, pear, apricot, quince, peach, plum and walnut. One sting is sufficient to make an apple unsalable or to cause rotting.

There are up to 2-4 generations per year depending on temperature. Adults emerge from pupae in April or May and fly when the temperature is over 15° C. Eggs are laid on fruit, leaves or twigs. Larvae tunnel into fruit to eat the seeds: the entry point ('sting') is often visible. When mature, the larva weaves a cocoon where it pupates and hatches into a moth. In the autumn, it remains in the cocoon over winter. Cocoons are found in cracks in the bark, in the soil or in apple crates.

## **Monitoring**

Monitoring is by pheromone trap. Place traps in orchards in early March and record catches weekly. When 5 or more male moths are caught for two weeks, a spray should be applied.

## **Control**

Mechanical control is by wrapping corrugated paper bands round the trunks of trees to attract the codling cocoons. The bands are inspected regularly and burned if cocoons are found. In a small orchard, removal of infested fruits will help control.

Mating disruption: dispensers of the female attractant pheromone are placed in the orchard in March. Consequently, the males cannot find the females to mate. This technique is only successful if applied over more than 10 jeribs.

Chemical: If infestation is light, Spinosad or codling granulosis virus are the best sprays for IPM. Bt is not effective. Diflubenzuron is also effective. Synthetic pyrethroids (Cypermethrin, Lambda-Cyhalothrin, Bifenthrin) or Chlorpyrifos are all effective against codling, but are not recommended for IPM as beneficial insects will be killed and problems with mites may follow.

Timing: spray 5-7 days after threshold is exceeded. Repeat after 14 days.