



Almond Moth

Ephestia cautella

Description

Adults: Up to 13 mm (0.5 inches) long with light grey to tan colored wings. There may be light wavy markings across the wings.

Eggs: Oval, ivory in color and 2 mm (0.08 inches) long.

Larvae: Creamy white, brown head capsule, with rows of spots along the back. Microscopic examination is required to separate from other *Ephestia* moths.

Pupae: Pupal cases are whitish with a yellow to brownish colored pupa inside.

Life Cycle

Adult moths live for 10-14 days. Mated females can lay 20-120 eggs singly or in groups. Eggs hatch in 3-5 days in warmer months and up to 7 days in cooler months. Larvae mature in 25 days. Development can extend up to 64 days depending on food quality, temperature and humidity. Larvae will migrate from infested product to pupate. Adults will emerge from pupation in 8 to 10 days depending on temperature.

Damage and Detection

Damage occurs during the larval phase. Granular frass the size of ground pepper can be found in, on food materials such as nuts, dried fruits, cereals and processed foods containing nuts or seeds and made from wheat, rice or corn. The use of pheromone traps and inspections can determine location and degree of infestation.

Corresponding Products from Insects Limited

- [Hanging NoSurvivor Traps and Bullet Lures \(IL-170\)](#)
- [Almond Moth Bullet Lures Only \(IL-173\)](#)

QUICK SCAN

SIZE / LENGTH

Adult	0.5 inch (13 mm)
Eggs	0.5 inch (13 mm)

COLOR RANGE

Adult	Light grey, tan colored wings
Larvae	Creamy white, brown head

LIFE CYCLE

Egg-Adult	Approx. 25 days
Eggs	Hatch 3-7 days
Females	Lay 12-120 eggs

FEEDING HABITS

Larvae	Prefer: nuts, dried fruits, cereals, seeds made from wheat, rice, or corn
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INFESTATION SIGNS

Adult	Flying near food source(s) Most active at dusk
Larvae	Granular frass the size of ground pepper

Almond Moth Monitoring Guidelines

Lure

BULLET LURE® contains sex pheromone to attract male moths. Effective duration of attraction is 90 days.

Lure Storage

Keep unopened lures in cool storage (less than 60° F) or place in freezer for extended storage. Lures can remain frozen for up to 24 months to retain their full effectiveness for use afterwards. Shelf life of lures at room temperatures is 12 months.

Trap Designs Used with Lure

NoSurvivor Hanging Traps are diamond shaped sticky traps that can be hung from many locations. This design is the preferred trap for this moth that flies well.

The SightTrap™ can provide daily images and catch data to help with early detection.

Trap Placement Techniques

Pheromone traps can be out placed year-round but are especially recommend when temperatures exceed 12.5°C (55°F). Place hanging pheromone traps 1.5 meters (5 feet) above ground or at eye level to allow for easy inspection when monitoring traps. Place pheromone traps 7.5 – 15 meters (25 – 50 feet) apart to determine the presence or absence of Almond moths. Increase pheromone trap density to 4.5 – 7.5 meters (15 – 25 feet) apart to help locate source of Almond moths. Almond moth pheromone traps are best utilized in areas that store dried goods such as food, grains, seeds, nuts, dried fruit, animal feed, or pet food. Keep pheromone traps 7.5 meters (25 feet) away from exterior doors.

Trap and Lure Maintenance

Replace traps when glue is filled with moths or becomes dusty. Replace pheromone lures every 90 days. Replace all pheromone lures in a location at the same time. Do not cut the cap off the bullet lure. Do not stagger lure replacement over several weeks. Record date and number of catches to identify trending information.

Fun Facts

- Commonly confused with Indian meal moths (*Plodia interpunctella*), Mediterranean flour moth (*Ephesia kuehniella*), raisin moth (*Cadra figulilella*) and dried food moth (*Cadra calidella*).
- Other common names for the Almond moth include tropical warehouse moth, dried currant moth, and fig moth.
- Almond moths initiate flight at temperatures above 12.5°C (55°F).
- Female and male almond moths initiate courtship behaviors when ready to mate.
- The pheromone that attracts Almond moths also attracts over 20 other moth species.