

# Fumigants & Pheromones

Insects Limited, Inc.



Tom Mueller

## How is This Unseasonably Warm Weather Affecting Your FSMA Compliance?



in the area of the trap giving you insights you have never had before.



It happens every so often. A stint of warm weather when it is supposed to be the coldest time of year. 99% of the population welcomes this surprise with open arms, but if you are some who can sum up your job description in one sentence, "It is my job to keep insects out of food, reduce customer complaints and protect our brand." then this warm weather should not excite you. It should put you on high alert.

At Insects Limited, we work hard to introduce scientific and innovative pheromone technology to the industry that allows professionals with the above job description to do just that, keep insects out of food, reduce customer complaints, and protect your brands. Recently, we introduced a product to the market called [SightTrap](#). It is a camera-based pheromone monitor that records an image of your traps each day, send the image to our web-based software ([ForesightIPM](#)) where the insects are identified, counted and graphed. It compares that data to the temperature and humidity

Here in the Midwest, we had seen unseasonably warm temperatures for the last 10 days. Temperatures warm enough to get the insects moving, and we are seeing that reflected in our customer's SightTrap data. In total, we have seen 37 insects (19 IMM, 15 WB, and 3 MFM) caught in the last 10 days. Before that, we had not caught a single insect in the previous 34 days.

"Start with the Insect First!" Insects are predictable if you know their biology. Once temperatures cool down and the photo-period hits less than 12/12 (light hours/dark hours), the insects go into diapause. They predict if unfavorable environmental conditions are coming (see *The Insects; Structure and Function*, 4th Edition. R.F. Chapman,

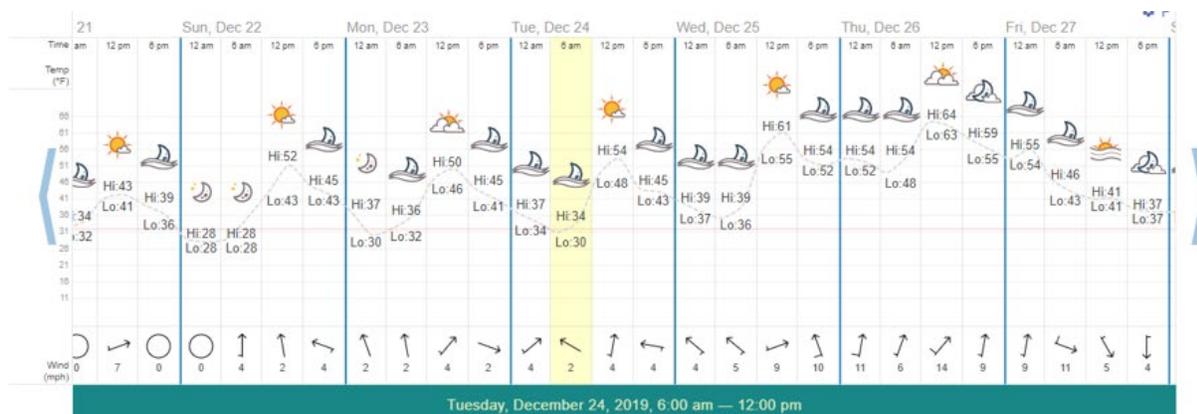
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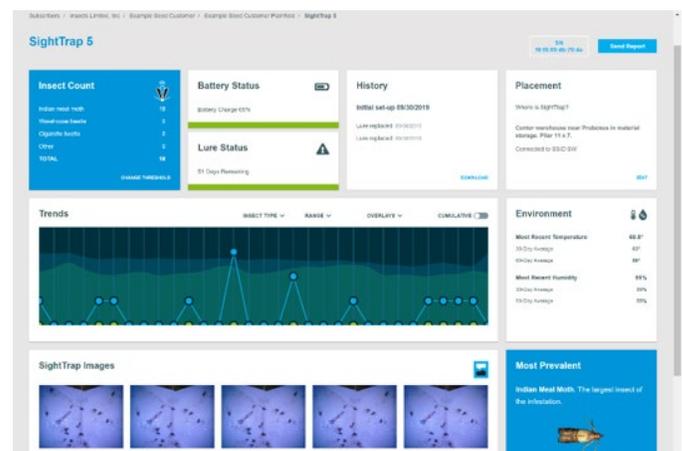
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Cambridge University Press, 1998. [ISBN 0-521-57048-4](#), p 403.), and go into survival mode. They pause their life cycle and just "hang out" until the unfavorable conditions improve. During the last 10 days, they "hit the play button" and started moving and you can bet your favorite Christmas present they searched for and found a mate to reproduce with quickly. This is going to cause even higher numbers in you or your customer's products when the weather warms and the insects come out of diapause.

Luckily, to the day, the SightTraps were able to communicate the exact locations of insect activity and provide the information to the right people. Customers took the information, inspected the areas, then located and solved the problem. This will inevitably lead to better results and happier customers.



You too can be a hero. Just work with us to combine science with a quality pheromone program and new pheromone technology like the [SightTrap](#).

Contact the author at [t.mueller@insectslimited.com](mailto:t.mueller@insectslimited.com) for more information on the SightTrap and ForesightIPM system.