



FCM control guidelines for the new season

Sean Moore and Vaughan Hattingh
Citrus Research International (CRI)

The False Codling Moth Risk Management System (FMS) was implemented for the first time during the 2017/18 season, with resounding success. However, we were fortunate that this coincided with a low-pressure FCM year, which greatly assisted with effective suppression of the pest. This creates a unique opportunity to prevent the populations from again increasing in the next and future production seasons.

Therefore, it is strongly recommended that growers initiate FCM control measures early and without compromise in the 2018/19 season. The obviously best approach to FCM control is population suppression, not just fruit protection. Population suppression is most effective when pest levels are at their lowest, thus preventing them from increasing. We therefore now have a golden opportunity to effectively suppress FCM populations, while they are at a very low level and before they have a chance of increasing.

Traditionally, FCM management practices have not been initiated earlier than November. However, in the cooler Cape regions, the first flight peak of the season has been recorded in October, whereas in the warmer northern regions, this is in all likelihood even earlier. If one has subscribed to the sterile insect release (SIT) programme, then releases would have been initiated in the first week of September. The other effective alternative for population suppression is mating disruption, which should be initiated before the first flight peak of the season. Trials conducted years ago, demonstrated that initiation of mating disruption in October, as opposed to November, could reduce FCM infestation of fruit by a further 57%. Mating disruption could be initiated even earlier in the northern regions.

Similarly, spray trials conducted a few years ago with granulovirus products, demonstrated that targeting the first flight peak in October rather than the second one in November/December, could improve FCM control by up to 43%.

Consequently, the following practices are highly recommended:

- Immediately after harvesting in an orchard is completed, ALL fruit remaining in the orchard (hanging and on the orchard floor)

MUST be removed and destroyed. This will remove the bridge for FCM to transfer from one season to the next.

- Prune trees thoroughly in order to maximize the opportunity for optimal spray coverage and penetration during the course of the following season.
- If SIT is not being used, initiate mating disruption before the first flight peak of the season, which occurs during October in the Cape regions and even earlier in the northern regions.
- A granulovirus spray applied after the spring FCM flight peak can significantly improve FCM control, relative to only initiating such sprays after the November/December flight peak.

Queries can be directed to Dr Sean Moore – seanmoore@cri.co.za



VKM beheerriglyne vir die nuwe seisoen

Sean Moore en Vaughan Hattingh
Citrus Research International (CRI)

Die Valskodlingmot Risikobestuurstelsel (FMS) is vir die eerste keer gedurende die 2017/18 seisoen, met groot sukses, geïmplementeer. Tot ons voordeel het dit met 'n lae VKM-druk jaar saamgeval, wat tot 'n groot mate tot doeltreffender onderdrukking van die plaag bygedra het. Hierdie omstandighede skep 'n unieke geleentheid om te voorkom dat die populasies in die volgende, en toekomstige seisoene weer opbou.

Daarom word dit sterk aanbeveel dat produsente VKM beheermaatreëls vroeg en sonder kompromie begin implementeer in die 2018/19 seisoen. Dis duidelik dat onderdrukking van die populasie die beste benadering tot VKM beheer is, en nie net vrugbeskerming nie. Onderdrukking van die populasie is die doeltreffendste wanneer die plaag se vlakke op hul laagste is, en dus verhoed dat hulle vermeerder. Ons het nou 'n gulde geleentheid om VKM populasies doeltreffend te onderdruk, terwyl hul op 'n baie lae vlak is, en voor hul enige kans het om te vermeerder.

Tradisioneel word daar nie met VKM bestrydingsmaatreëls vroeër as November begin nie, maar in die koeler Kaap-streke is die eerste vlugpiek van die seisoen al in Oktober waargeneem. In die warmer noordelike streke is dit in alle waarskynlikheid selfs vroeër. As jy aan die steriele insek loslatings program (SIT) deelneem, het loslatings alreeds in die eerste week van September begin. Die ander doeltreffende alternatief vir populasie onderdrukking is paringsontwrigting, wat voor die eerste vlugpiek van die seisoen geïmplementeer moet word. Proewe wat jare gelede gedoen is, het getoon dat inisiëring van paringsontwrigting in Oktober, in plaas van November, tot 'n vermindering in vrugbesmetting met 'n verdere 57% gelei het. In die noordelike streke kan daar selfs vroeër met paringsontwrigting begin word.

Soortgelyke spuitproewe wat 'n paar jaar gelede met granulovirus produkte uitgevoer is, het gewys dat bespuitings wat teen die eerste vlugpiek in Oktober gemik is, eerder as teen die tweede piek in November/Desember, kon VKM-beheer tot en met 43% verbeter.

Gevolgtrek word die volgende praktyke ten sterkste aanbeveel:

- Onmiddellik nadat 'n boord klaar geoes is, MOET ALLE oorblywende vrugte in die boord (hangend en op die grond) verwyder en vernietig word. Hierdie sal die oorbrugging vir VKM van een seisoen na die volgende elimineer.
- Bome moet deeglik gesnoei word om optimale spuitbedekking en penetrasie gedurende die volgende seisoen te verseker.
- Indien SIT nie gebruik word nie, moet paringsontwrigting voor die eerste vlugpiek van die seisoen geïnisieer word, gedurende Oktober in die Kaap-streke en selfs vroeër in die noordelike streke.
- 'n Granulovirus-bespuiting onmiddellik na die lente VKM-vlugpiek, kan VKM-beheer beduidend verbeter, in vergelyking met hierdie bespuitings wat eers na die November/Desember vlugpiek toegedien word.

Navrae kan aan Dr Sean Moore – seanmoore@cri.co.za gerig word.