

Standards consultation - pheromones in traps in storage areas Spring 2012

The Processing Standards Committee recommends allowing pheromones in traps and dispensers as pest attractants and pest mating disrupters in addition to their use for monitoring pest levels. Mating disruption is similar to the principle of biological control in that a natural element of the insect's biology and environment is used to decrease populations.

Mating disruption works by introducing a species-specific pheromone mimic into the environment. Females of pest species, such as those from the Lepidoptera order (moths and butterflies), produce trails of pheromones, (pheromone plumes) which the males follow to find mates. The false pheromones lead to eventual decline of the population and eradication of the pest species from the area.

This change would mirror the Soil Association standard for pest control in organic crop production (standard 4.11.4) allowing the use of pheromones as mating disrupters in storage areas.

41.09.06

To prevent infestations in organic areas you may use:

- desiccant dusts such as diatomaceous earth and amorphous silica, preferably from naturally occurring sources
- electric flying insect control units, with shatterproof tubes that are changed at least annually
- tamper resistant bait stations that contain legally approved pesticides
- sticky boards for insects, and
- pheromones ~~traps (monitoring only)~~. in traps and dispensers, for monitoring pest levels or as attractants and sexual behaviour disrupters.

Farming and growing Standard 4.11.4

You may use the following products to control insect pests:

- physical barriers, including fleeces and insect netting but made only from polyethylene, polypropylene or other polycarbonates
- **pheromones in traps and dispensers, for monitoring pest levels or as attractants and sexual behaviour disrupters**
- quassia preparations from Quassia amara
- preparations of Bacillus thuringiensis
- sticky fly traps, free from insecticides we don't allow
- biological pest control, but only using licensed, naturally occurring predators
- granulose virus preparations
- gelatine
- hydrolysed proteins and diammonium phosphate, but only as attractants in traps which prevent substances from coming into contact with the crop or being released into the environment
- quartz sand as a repellent.

If you would like to comment, please email consultation@soilassociation.org by Friday 25th May 2012.

Please remember that the online standards are always the current edition at www.soilassociation.org/organicstandards