

# Lucin Lure™ & Wota-T™ for Management of Brinjal Shoot & Fruit Borer

Brinjal Shoot and Fruit Borer (BSFB) (*Leucinodes orbonalis*) is a highly destructive pest of Brinjal crop in all parts of India where this crop is cultivated. Larvae of this pest cause wilting of young shoots by damaging the water-conducting tissue and also bore into and damage brinjal fruits, reducing marketable yield. Many brinjal farmers lose a significant portion of their yield to BSFB damage, often leading them to abandon the entire crop.



Brinjal Shoot & Fruit Borer - Adult Male

Efforts to control this pest by chemical pesticides are of limited use due to the hidden larvae - which are protected inside the brinjal fruit or shoot, where chemical pesticides cannot reach and kill them. PCI's **Lucin-Lure™** is a sex pheromone lure specially introduced for mass trapping of male BSFB moths, providing effective management.

**Lucin-Lure™** is to be used in conjunction with PCI's **Wota-T™** (water trap\*) at 12-16 traps per acre within 10-15 days of transplanting of brinjal seedlings into the field. Wilting of shoots is the first sign of appearance of BSFB in the crop - however farmers should not wait till the shoots are affected to start pheromone trapping. The traps have to be made functional by filling the basin with water up to the rim. Male moths attracted by **Lucin-Lure™** are trapped in the water. Addition of castor or other vegetable oil helps prevent trapped moths from escaping from the water.



Brinjal Shoot & Fruit Borer - larva inside shoot

Trapped moths should be removed and the oil-water mixture replaced once every week. Moth removal and water replacement can be done more frequently, if catches are high and if trap basin fills up with moths. Pheromone trapping should be continued throughout the crop season by replacing **Lucin-Lure™** once every 60 days. Mass trapping of adult moths should be combined with the removal and destruction of infested fruits and shoots (preferably by deep burial 2m. below soil surface or burning) once every week.



Wota-T™ with catch of adult moths

Destruction of infested shoots and fruits kills BSFB larvae and prevents their pupation and further development into adults (and subsequent increase in the adult population). Stoppage of chemical pesticide application also aids in BSFB management by allowing natural enemies of the pest to survive and multiply. Some natural enemies kill the larvae inside the fruits and shoots by parasitisation and others destroy the pupae in the soil by feeding on them.

**Wota-T™**

\*Patent pending.

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