



United States
Department of
Agriculture

595 – Pest Management Conservation System Trapping, Monitoring, Scouting – Vegetable Pests Implementation Requirements

Producer:		Project or Contract:	
Location:		County:	
Farm Name:		Tract Number:	

Target Pest: _____ Description of Threshold Used: _____
 Target crops: _____
 Acres: _____ Field Number(s): _____

Definition: Trapping, monitoring, and scouting can be a way to determine when pests first arrive to the site and when (or if) controlling the pest is warranted. Some methods of scouting and monitoring rely solely on labor, while some trapping methods require physical materials AND labor. As with all cultural techniques, trapping, monitoring, and scouting are not a silver bullet to control pests but are important tools in an integrated system.

Purpose: Plant pest pressure Reduce injury to beneficial organisms

Background: In Vermont it is common for vegetable producers to experience economically damaging levels of pests on their crops. Many times, pests are specific to crop families. In addition to trapping, monitoring, and scouting, it is recommended to consider using weather models to track pests, as well as cultural methods with the aim of suppressing pests such as crop rotation, cover cropping, mulching, insectary strips, and wildlife habitat planting.

Conditions where practice applies: Farms that have experienced economically damaging populations of an identified insect pest in previous seasons and would like to adopt new pest management methods. The practice includes the cost of labor and/or equipment that is used to track, monitor, or suppress pests. Growers who adopt and implement a new pest management activity may still experience economically damaging pest thresholds, in which case, they may still opt to use pesticide intervention. Growers that already use pesticides are encouraged to start with pesticide sprayer calibration.



Sticky traps attached to hoops every 4 feet in a high tunnel over a cucumber crop. Yellow sticky traps allow growers to monitor populations of cucumber beetles.

Planning Criteria: Timing of scouting and/or deployment of trapping methods is key to success. Use Land Grant University guidance and/or [The New England Vegetable Management Guide](#) to determine suitable materials (lures, traps) and methods. Other crops and pests may be considered with VT-NRCS approval.

If you have questions about this planned Pest Management Conservation System practice contact:

Name:		Tel:		Email:	
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This information is based on a document created by Xerxes Biologist Alina Harris.

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Potential Crops and Pests:

Crop	Pests
Cucurbits (cucumbers, pumpkins, winter and summer squash)	Cucumber beetle, squash bugs, squash vine borer, green peach aphid, cutworm
Brassicas: (broccoli, kale, Brussels sprouts, bok choy, tatsoi)	Flea beetle, cabbage looper, imported cabbage worm, diamondback moth, cabbage aphid, cabbage maggot, cross striped cabbage worm, cut worm, onion thrips
Solanaceous crops (eggplant, potatoes)	Colorado potato beetle, flea beetles
Legumes: (beans, peas)	Mexican bean beetle, potato leaf hopper, cutworms
Carrots and parsnip	Carrot weevil
Sweet corn	Fall armyworm, true armyworm, brown marmorated stink bug, corn earworm, corn leaf aphid, cutworms, European corn borer, seed corn maggot
<i>Other crops and pests may be considered with VT-NRCS approval.</i>	

Materials, Methods and Timeline of Trapping, Scouting or Monitoring:

The planner, grower, and IPM specialist will use Land Grant University guidance and/or [The New England Vegetable Management Guide](#) to determine suitable materials and methods for pest monitoring or suppression. IPM specialist and/or NRCS planner are responsible for creating the timeline prior to implementation and the grower is responsible for providing documentation of implementation via photos and/or scouting records.

Additional Comments: Note effectiveness. Were pest management interventions (e.g., pesticide applications aimed at target pest) increased, decreased, or maintained from the previous year? Was the crop marketable?

Note: Incentive payment is dependent on *implementation of scouting, monitoring, or trapping recommendations*, not the overall effectiveness of adopted methods.

Certification Documents for Scouting/Trapping/Monitoring (Sample record keeping table on last page)
Producer is responsible for providing the following records to NRCS for practice certification to proceed.

- Map indicating fields and acreages where scouting, trapping, or monitoring is used (*Conservation plan map may be used*)
- Dates scouted or trap inspected
- Number of pests found per scouting/trapping event (date)
- Indication of threshold met/not-met
- Pesticide or suppression measure used when threshold met. (*include products, date, and rate for pesticides*)

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Sample Record Keeping Table. As an alternative to this table, growers can provide records of same information in a different format and attach.

Date scouted or trap inspected	Number of pests found per scouting/trapping event	Was economic threshold met? Not met?	Did it trigger pest intervention? If yes, what is the method of suppression (including rate if applicable)

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