

Pear sawfly (*Hoplocampa brevis*): Catch that fly

Problem

Pear sawfly (*Hoplocampa brevis*) is a pest in organic fruit production. Eggs are laid during bloom in the flower bottom. Larvae move to 2-3 other fruits and devastate the young fruitlets.

Solution

Sawflies are attracted to the white colour of the flowers. White sticky traps have been used for many years to monitor flight. An innovative method is to catch sawflies with white sticky tape to lower the population.

Benefits

Catching sawflies reduces the need for intervention and lowers damage.

Practical recommendations

Fixing the white sticky tape

Start before the first flowers are open. There is no prediction model for the start of the flight of the pear sawfly.

- Hang 150-250 sticky tapes per hectare, depending on infection pressure.
- Fix the sticky tapes with staplers between the horizontal wires of the trellis system in between the trees.
- In orchards without a trellis system, research about an effective method of fixing the tapes is needed.
- No branches should cover or move against the sticky tapes.
- One person on the working platform for the top wire and two persons for the lower wires are needed.
- Two rows can be done at once.
- The distance between the wires can vary from 1 to 2 m. Start at the top wire and go down to the second (lower) wire.
- Remove the bands soon after flowering to prevent bycatching bees and natural enemies.

Monitoring the effect

- Control the number of egg-laying stitches in the flower bottom. A threshold for pear is not known.

Direct control measurements

- When necessary, use Quassia or NeemAzal-T/S at bloom/petal fall.
- Check the permission status for Quassia in your country.
- Use no NeemAzal-T/S on Conference and other susceptible pears.

Costs

- 255-502€/ha, depending on length and number of tapes (length 1 or 2 m, sticky tapes: 150-250/ha, 10-14 hours per 18€/hr, tape 0,5€/m).

Applicability box

Theme

Crop production, Horticulture, Temperate fruits

Keywords

Pest control, Biological pest control, Pear sawfly

Context

Central Europe

Application time

Just before and during bloom

Required time

6-10 hours/ha hanging up, 4 hours/ha removing

Period of impact

One year, plus effect over years

Equipment

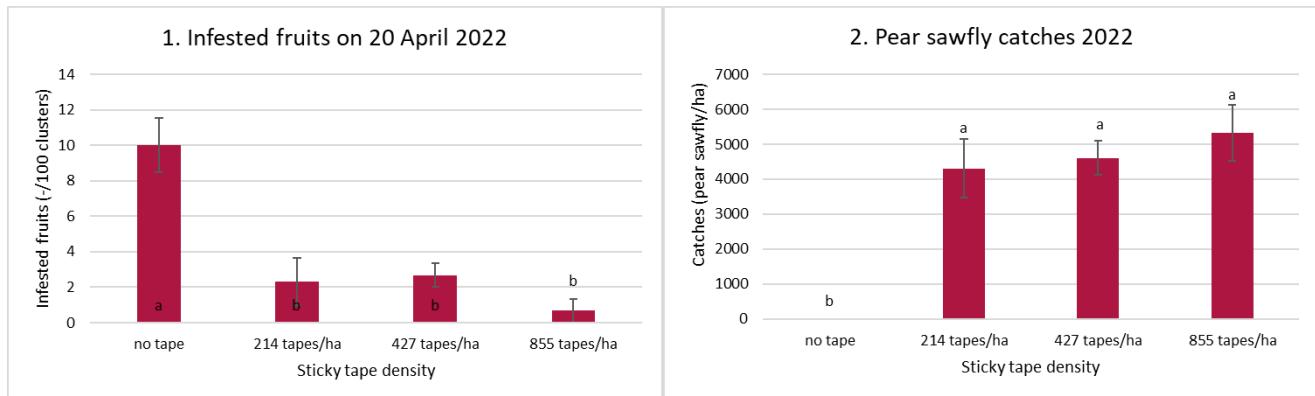
CatchIT sticky tape (Andermatt), working platform, knife, stapler

Best in

Orchard with trellis system and horizontal wires



2022 Tapes (1) fixed 16 March in Xenia (2). 22 March, some pear sawflies were caught (3). Photos: Gerjan Brouwer, Delphy 2022



Graphs 1 and 2: In a Xenia plot, three variants were tested with a different number of sticky traps per hectare. The number of infested fruits (1) was counted, and the number of caught pear sawflies (2) on the tape. In all variants, the damage was significantly reduced in the plots with tapes compared to the control plot (no bands). Sarah Kemp, Delphy

Further information

Video

- [Biofruitnet: Catching sawflies with sticky bands](#)

Further reading

- H. Helsen, P.J. Jansonius, G.W. Brouwer, et al. 2020. [Mass trapping of the apple sawfly *Hoplocampa testudinea*](#). Proceedings Ecofruit p. 99-102.

Weblinks

- Check the Organic [Farm Knowledge platform](#) for more practical recommendations.
- Adolphi, C., Oeser, N. 2022. [Practice abstract Regulation of sawflies in organic orchards](#). FÖKO. BIOFRUIT-NET.

About this practice abstract

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