

# Bamboo and deadwood: Get them out!

## Preventive measures to reduce codling moth in organic orchards

### Problem

Ideal winter hiding places for the diapausing larvae of codling moth (*Cydia pomonella*) are deadwood piles, cracked softwood poles and bamboo poles.

### Solution

Plant hygiene plays an important role and should be considered a component of codling moth control.

### Benefits

To avoid mass reproduction of the codling moth in organic orchards (and to keep population levels sustainably below the economic damage threshold), regulation must include a combined strategy of monitoring, confusion, nematodes, plant hygiene, and the use of granuloviruses.

### Applicability box

#### Theme

Crop production, Horticulture, Temperate fruits

#### Keywords

Plant protection; Pest control, Biological pest control

#### Context

Central Europe

#### Period of impact

Autumn, winter

#### Equipment

Bamboo poles, deadwood pile

#### Best in

Pome fruits

### Practical recommendation

- Control of the first generation of codling moth is crucial for containment.
- Bamboo sticks, used in the scaffold system for stableness, are often very worn or cracked after a short period of time. As a result, they offer ideal overwintering quarters for the diapausing larvae of the codling moth.
- In orchards with a high codling moth infestation, it can be assumed that existing bamboo poles in the orchard are strongly colonized by the codling moth and can promote codling moth populations.
- In new orchards (especially in infested orchards), if possible, no more bamboo poles should be used. In old orchards, the support structure should be checked and replaced if necessary.
- Another problem in old orchards is storing old wood next to commercial orchards; when plants are cleared, codling moth larvae remain in the support structure and in/on the trees.
- Old wood piles, especially from infested plants, should not be stored near apple orchards over winter.



Picture. 1-4: Tunneling codling moth, diapausing larvae in bamboo poles, old wood piles at plant edge, codling moth infestation on fruit (Photos: C. Adolphi).

## Further reading

- Heinisch, D. 2010. Winter hiding places for codling moths as a building block of the 'codling moth hotel' control strategy, Öko-Obstbau Magazine. (German)

## Weblinks

- Zimmer, J., Kienzle, J. 2020. [Regulation of codling moths](#). (German)
- Rank, H., Schmadlak, S. 2020. [Bamboo poles and codling moth - a dangerous alliance](#) (German)

## About this practice abstract

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Traubenplatz 5, D-74189 Weinsberg  
foeko@foeko.de, www.foeko.de

**Author:** Christina Adolphi, Niklas Oeser

**Contact:** niklas.oeser@esteburg.de



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