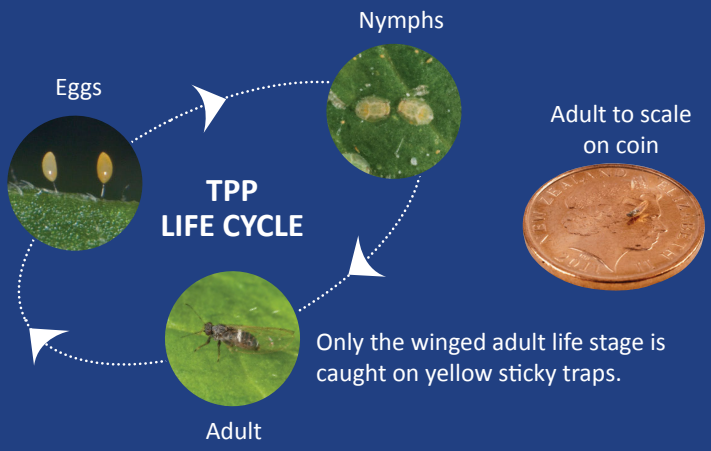
Tomato Potato Psyllid

Monitoring with sticky traps: A guide for growers | November 2026

WHY MONITORING?

Crop monitoring techniques allow for the collection of information about pest insect populations throughout the growing season.

This information is beneficial to both growers and researchers.

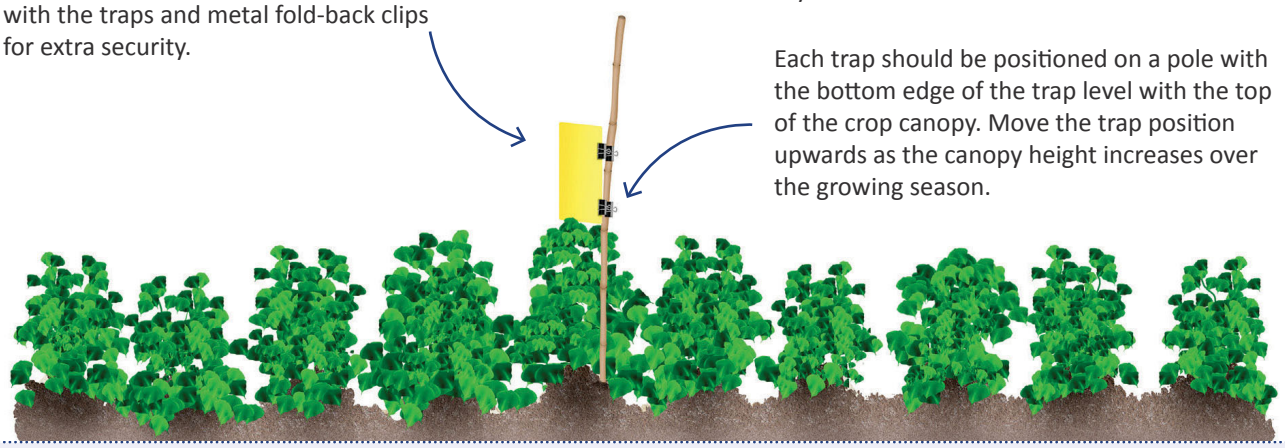


TRAPPING PROTOCOL

Attach sticky traps to 1.5m bamboo poles or similar using the twist ties provided with the traps and metal fold-back clips for extra security.

Traps at the end of each pack may have 'clean' sides, so to ensure both sides are coated in adhesive, press back-to-back with a sticky side to transfer the adhesive.

Each trap should be positioned on a pole with the bottom edge of the trap level with the top of the crop canopy. Move the trap position upwards as the canopy height increases over the growing season.



TIPS FOR TRAPPING

- Traps should be placed in your crops from planting until harvest. We recommend that you continue your trapping until four weeks after harvest.
- We recommend the use of 10 x 25cm yellow sticky traps.
- Traps should be replaced weekly.
- Traps should be wrapped individually with cling film, (e.g. GLAD® Wrap) in the field and taken to a more comfortable location for counting. If you send your traps away for assessment and there is a delay in posting them, store them in the refrigerator to help preserve the insects.



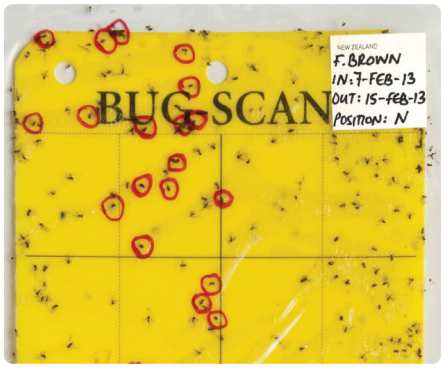
- As insecticides have specific modes of action, we recommend that sticky trap monitoring is carried out alongside visual plant assessment, to gauge the numbers of eggs and nymphs, and the presence and impacts of important insect predators. Examine middle leaves of plants, paying particular attention to the underside of each leaf selected.





TRAP PLACEMENT

- ☑ Use a minimum of four traps per field.
- ☑ Place four traps five metres into the crop from the field margin, one on each side of the field. Where possible, place an additional trap in the centre of the crop.
- ☑ Avoid placing them at the corners as there is too much edge surrounding the traps and results can be influenced.



TRAP ASSESSMENT

- If you send traps away for assessment, they must be clearly labelled with your name, site details, date put in the crop, date removed from the crop and position of the trap in the field.
- If you are assessing your own traps, you will require a microscope, a permanent marker for circling TPP and a recording sheet.

RESOURCES

Bioeconomy Science Institute

Auckland 09 925 7000 or Lincoln 03 977 7340
www.bioeconomyscience.co.nz

Suppliers of sticky traps and crop monitoring services

Fruitfed Horticulture: 06 873 0956
fruitfedcms@fruitfedsupplies.co.nz
www.fruitfed.co.nz

Horticentre: 0800 855 255 or www.horticentre.co.nz

Suppliers of sticky traps only

Farmlands: Quintin Swanepoel 027 298 9281
www.farmlands.co.nz

Pestrol: www.pestrol.co.nz

Hydro Warehouse: www.hydrowarehouse.co.nz

Crop monitoring service providers only

SGS: 0800 174 025 or www.sgs.com

Psyllid resources

Potatoes New Zealand: www.potatoesnz.co.nz

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MORE INFORMATION

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