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Citrus leaf miner Traps - Fact Sheet

Citrus leaf miner (*Phyllocnistis citrella*) is quite a problem with citrus trees. The larvae of citrus leaf miner tunnel their way through leaves between the cuticle layers causing stunting and the distinctive “trails” in the leaves. The adults are rarely seen. The female, if fertilised, will lay eggs in the new growth of citrus trees which then hatch to cause the problems.



Adult citrus leaf miner and the trails left by the larvae underneath.

An interesting approach to control has been developed by the citrus industry using a trap. The trap attracts male citrus leafminer adults and prevents them from mating with females. Fewer pregnant females means greater protection for your citrus trees. The eco-CLM trap consists of a rubber plug impregnated with a pheromone and a sticky paper trap. Simply open the trap, throw the plug inside (it will stick) and hang in the citrus trees. For small trees use one trap. For larger trees it is recommended that 2 traps are used.

Female citrus leafminers only lay eggs on flushes of new growth so hang the trap when new growth commences. Replace every 8-12 weeks or sooner if the sticky trap is full of the leaf miners.



Features:

- Powerful pheromone attractant is irresistible to male citrus leafminers
- Long lasting sticky trap can handle all weather conditions
- Contains no poisons
- Targets only male citrus leafminers and won't attract beneficial insects
- Pheromone lasts 8-12 weeks

This approach to pest control seems to the author to be the best approach – that is the target pest is targeted and controlled with no collateral damage to the many beneficial insects that are in the garden. Traps available in most nurseries and hardware stores or on line from Green harvest.