

Prays citri is currently considered the most harmful pest to the lemon tree because it destroys the floral organs of the trees. In addition, it can damage buds and small fruits.

Since damage occurs during the flowering period, the plants that are prone to attacks are those that have a gradual flowering period such as the lemon tree. Within this species, the Verna variety is the most attacked because it has several consecutive blooming periods a year. Damage has also been seen in oranges and occasionally in the Clemenules Mandarin which also has a long flowering period.

MORPHOLOGY AND BIOLOGY

The adult is 10 mm wide and a grey colour, its wings have dark spots and frayed edges. The larvae are a whitish or greenish colour with a brown head.

The adults fly at night and twilight, laying eggs preferably on the petals of the flowers that are still closed. They also lay their eggs in the sepals, shoots or small fruits. They normally pupate inside the flower in which they have already fed, then joined with silk threads. They usually hibernate as a chrysalis and can produce between 3 and 5 generations a year.



Adult of *Prays citri*



Egg of *Prays citri* on flower



Caterpillar of *Prays citri*



Pupa of *Prays citri*

The eggs can be seen individually on the rose-pink petals as a whitish speck. If the amount of eggs that are laid over the floral buds is high, the damage will be severe during the flowering period.

The caterpillar, born from this egg, bores into the chorion and enters directly inside the flower, between the egg and the petal.

Source: Professors F. García Mari, J. Costa Comelles and F. Ferragut.
Photos: E. Llácer in <http://gipcitricos.ivia.es>

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ECONEX PRAYS CITRI 2 MG 60 DAYS



SOLUTIONS OVERVIEW

CODE	TRADE NAME	IMAGE
VA446	ECONEX PRAYS CITRI 2 MG 60 DAYS 1 UNIT Pheromone diffuser with a duration of 60 days.	
VA447	ECONEX PRAYS CITRI 2 MG 60 DAYS 10 UNITS Pheromone diffuser with a duration of 60 days.	
TA273	ECONEX FOLDING WHITE TRIANGULAR WITHOUT SHEETS	
TA248	ECONEX SHEET FOR TRIANGULAR	
TA242	ECONEX DISPOSABLE WHITE TRIANGULAR	
TA001	ECONEX POLILLERO	

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ECONEX PRAYS CITRI 2 MG 60 DAYS

www.prayscitri.eu

Citrus flower moth

BIOCONTROL



DESCRIPTION

CODE	TRADE NAME
VA446	ECONEX PRAYS CITRI 2 MG 60 DAYS 1 UNIT
VA447	ECONEX PRAYS CITRI 2 MG 60 DAYS 10 UNITS
Sexual pheromone diffuser of the species <i>Prays citri</i> to attract males, that lasts for 60 days under normal field conditions.	
OMDF register number: 027/2020	

Natural rubber diffuser in capsule-shape, which is individually packaged in an aluminium sachet with labelled specifications.

Once taken out of the sachet, the diffuser does not need any activation operation. Simply place it properly in the trap.



**ECONEX PRAYS CITRI
2 MG 60 DAYS 1 UNIT.** Packaging
and pheromone diffuser

NECESSARY MATERIAL

A trap **ECONEX FOLDING WHITE TRIANGULAR WITHOUT SHEETS**, **ECONEX DISPOSABLE WHITE TRIANGULAR** or **ECONEX POLILLERO**, and a pheromone diffuser **ECONEX PRAYS CITRI 2 MG 60 DAYS**, product authorised for use in organic farming.



**ECONEX FOLDING
WHITE TRIANGULAR
WITHOUT SHEETS**



**ECONEX
DISPOSABLE
WHITE
TRIANGULAR**



**ECONEX
POLILLERO**

DETECTION AND MONITORING

1 to 2 traps per hectare should be placed at the same height as the crops. Also, a specific support can be used.

Traps should be placed at the exact moment when the blossoming starts and the first floral buds appear.

MASS TRAPPING

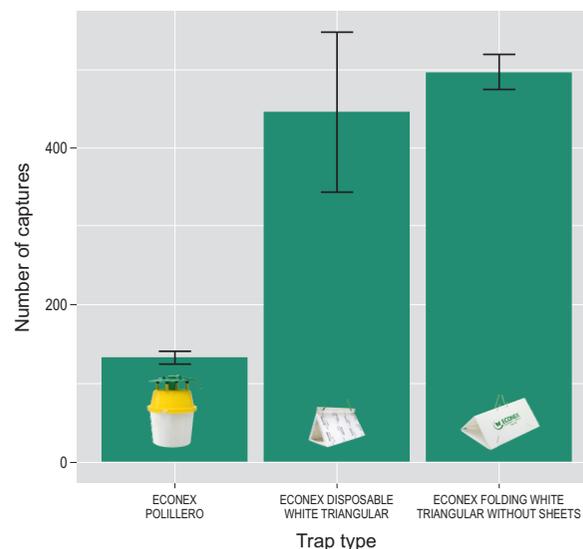
The males of this species are specifically captured in order to reduce mating, meaning that the unfertilised females will lay unviable eggs. In this way, the pest population is reduced. For mass trapping, the amount of traps per surface area must be increased, depending on the location and uniformity of the plots.

One trap controls a surface area between 500 and 1.000 m². This means a density of **10 to 20 traps per hectare**.

On the borders of the plots, it will be necessary to place a barrier of traps separated 10 to 15 metres from each other.

RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF TRAPS SUGGESTED

As shown in the graph, the most effective traps are the **ECONEX FOLDING WHITE TRIANGULAR WITHOUT SHEETS** and the **ECONEX DISPOSABLE WHITE TRIANGULAR**. However, these adhesive traps may require periodic monitoring, approximately twice a month. It is necessary because once the adhesive surface is completely saturated with insects, the trap stops working. In this case, the trap or the sticky sheet must be changed it. And if the 60 days of duration has not exceeded, you can continue using the same pheromone diffuser. In order to reduce the maintenance work, it can be used the **ECONEX POLILLERO**. This trap is less effective than the other ones but it can incessantly extend the captures during the whole lifetime of the diffusers.



PERIOD OF USE

To achieve good control of *Prays citri*, it is advisable to combine the two methods: detection and monitoring and mass trapping. In spring you can place 1 or 2 traps per hectare to detect the pest and observe its population levels.

With tolerance thresholds established in each area, the moment to adopt control measures, in this case mass trapping, can later be defined. The tolerance threshold for *Prays citri* is very low and varies depending on the area. In general, it is between 7 and 21 captures per trap and per week. For mass trapping, traps should be placed throughout the plots. In addition, traps are also recommended to be placed between July and August in order to protect this blooming period.

DAMAGES

The most serious damage is produced in the Verna variety of lemon trees during the two main blooming periods: in spring, from April to May, it is known as Cosecha and in summer, in September, it is called

Rodrejo. The “Sanjuanera” blooming period that takes place in June is not as abundant and also, causes slight damage.

In the case of attacks on flowers, the larva feeds on the anthers and pistils inside of the flower. It then moves on to other flowers and binds the damaged area with silk threads, forming a mass on the inside in which dried petals and lots of dark-coloured excrement can be found. This type of damage could be confused with that of the *Cacoecia* caterpillar, with the difference being that this last pest has a preference for newly ripened fruit and not flowers. Besides, *Cacoecia* does not produce sawdust and excrement.

The larva feeds on the epidermis of the leaves. It excavates a gallery along the shoot with resin secretions. Attacks on newly ripened fruit tend to create a gallery in the style and *Cacoecia* caterpillar end up by eating all the fruit.

Damages to growing fruits appear as superficial spots, which are caused by the larva feeding on the peel. In the centre of these spots, the chorion of the egg can be found.

Damages to growing fruits appear as superficial spots, which are caused by the larva feeding on the peel. In the centre of these spots, the chorion of the egg can be found. Sometimes, the larva can cause damage to the scions in all types of citrus fruits, by entering under the grafted scutum and feeding on the cambium. Therefore, the scion dries up. Once the damage is caused, the larva abandons the fruit to pupate in the ground, although it can also pupate near the damaged bud. Some pyralid moths such as *Ephestia sp.* or *Cryptoblabes* can cause similar damage to the scion.

FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE THE NUMBER OF TRAPS REQUIRED

The pest population, the bordering crops, the level of control required, etc...

One important factor is the size of the crop. In small and irregular crops, a greater number of traps are required than in larger and more uniform plots.

Another important factor is the distance between plots that have the same pest. In cases like this, the borders of the plots must be reinforced, so it could be necessary to place up to 20 traps per hectare or even more for mass trapping.



ECONEX DISPOSABLE WHITE TRIANGULAR
with captures of *Prays citri*

STORING THE DIFFUSERS

The diffusers must be stored in their original packaging without opening it in a refrigerator at 4 °C; or in a freezer at -18 °C, in which case they will last for 2 and 4 years respectively.