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POPULATION DYNAMICS OF THE LEAFMINER, *LIRIOMYZA TRIFOLII* (BURGESS), IN ONION, *ALIUM CEPA* L.

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The population dynamics of *Liriomyza trifolii* (Burgess) was studied for two years in weekly-sprayed and unsprayed onion fields in Bongabon, Nueva Ecija Philippines. Nueva Ecija province is known for large area cultivation of onion during the summer months from December-May. Changes in population density of *L. trifolii* larvae, adult mines, damaged leaves, natural enemies and adult fly density was recorded over a crop period. There were little differences noted on the above parameters studied between sprayed and unsprayed plots except for a significant reduction in larval parasitism and number of predators recorded from the weekly-sprayed plot. Peak population density of larvae and damage were recorded when the crop neared maturity, so it is doubtful if losses could still be incurred at this time when bulbs neared maturity. Results showed that spraying the farmers, most commonly used insecticide (chlorpyrifos+BPMC) was not effective against *L. trifolii* but detrimental to its naturally occurring parasitoids and predators. Since farmers had been applying the above insecticide for quite sometime, it is possible that the insect had developed resistance. Our results indicated that spraying against *L. trifolii* in onion does harm to farmers and non-target species and therefore may be unnecessary and wasted.