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PLASTIC PYRAMIDS: AN EFFECTIVE NEW DESIGN FOR MONITORING PLUM CURCULIO

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Plum Curculio is a major pest of all tree fruit crops in the Eastern US. IPM scientists, in the public and private sector, have refined trap designs and are working to develop an odor-baited system. Trap types were evaluated for monitoring plum curculio in apple research plots during the 2002 growing season. Trap types included plastic pyramid, screen, wood pyramid, panel and kill types. All traps were baited with three lures: aggregation pheromone, plum essence and an enhanced volatile blend.

Season-long plum curculio captures were significantly greater in the borders than in the woods or orchard interior. Plastic pyramids captured significantly more weevils when averaged across habitats. Plastic pyramid traps captured the first weevils in the season. The orchard border, adjacent to plum curculio overwintering habitats, is the best location and the plastic pyramid trap is the best trap for capturing high numbers of plum curculio.