

Section VII
Foliage & Seed Feeding Pests

RESULTS OF ISDA 2005 POTATO TUBERWORM (*Phthorimeae operculella*) DETECTION SURVEY

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During the 2005 growing season, the University of Idaho potato tuberworm (PTW) survey was initiated, under the direction of Dr. Juan Alvarez and funded through a grant from the Idaho Potato Commission. U of I personnel placed 36 traps in potato fields across southern Idaho. On August 26, 2005, two adult moths were trapped on the edge of the variety trail plots at the U of I Experiment Station in Parma. In reaction to this positive and as a result of September 8 meeting of ISDA, University and industry officials, it was decided that ISDA would implement a more extensive survey of the potato growing areas of the state to include commercial and seed fields as well as packing and processing facilities. A total of 461 Trece Pherocon VI with pheromone lures were deployed across southern Idaho in production fields and at processing or fresh pack facilities. Traps were located in 21 Idaho counties with significant potato acreage. Between September 21 and October 26 a total 19 moths were caught.

Positive Trap Summary:

Canyon County – U of I Parma Experiment Station and 8 commercial fields, 4 growers, 15 PTW moths

Payette County – 1 field, 1 grower, 1 PTW moth

Elmore County – 2 fields, 2 growers, 3 PTW moths

No potato tuber moths have been captured east of Elmore County during the 2005 survey.

Extensive tuber inspections were conducted by U of I staff at the Parma R&E Center. ISDA trained their Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Division (FF&V) inspectors to look for PTW damage as part of the potato grading and quality inspection program. To date no live larvae or damaged tubers have been found in Idaho. Traps have also been deployed in a few private and commercial storage facilities in SW Idaho. To date no positive reports or PTW trap catches have been reported from traps located near or in storage facilities.