

MANAGEMENT OF BANANA WEEVIL BY MASS TRAPPING

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Male *Cosmopolites sordidus* (Germar) produce an aggregation pheromone that attracts male and female weevils. Ramp (walk in) or buried traps baited with slow release formulations of the pheromone attract high numbers of weevils compared to stem traps. In repetitive large scale trials trapping with 4 traps / hectare lowered populations of *C. sordidus* by > 80% and reduced corm damage from 25-35% to less than 10%. Where assessed bunch weights increased by > 20% over one crop cycle.

This corresponds to a ~10X return on investment in this pest management method.