



# FALL ARMYWORM (*SPODOPTERA FRUGIPERDA*) AND THE BOLLGARD® 3 TECHNOLOGY



Photo credit: Ted C. Macrae

## WHAT IS FALL ARMYWORM?

Fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) is a pest moth species originating from the tropical regions of the Americas, that has recently been identified in several areas of northern Australia and as far south as Northern NSW. With the positive identification of a fall armyworm moth in Northern NSW cotton growing regions it is imperative that all growers and agronomists scout cotton crops containing Bollgard II® or Bollgard 3 technology for this pest and manage it as required.

This pest has a large host range, including cotton. As fall armyworm has been declared ineradicable, it is important to be able to identify the larvae and to understand how to manage the pest in Bollgard II or Bollgard 3 cotton.

## IDENTIFYING FALL ARMYWORM

- CottonInfo has distributed a guide on how to identify fall armyworm. The publication can be found here [cottoninfo.com.au/publications/insect-id-guide-endemics-exotics](http://cottoninfo.com.au/publications/insect-id-guide-endemics-exotics)

- Not all areas of Australia will provide suitable environmental conditions for this pest all year round.
- Fall armyworm does not diapause, so it may not survive in all cropping regions through the winter, however the moth may be capable of moving large distances from areas in northern Queensland in spring and summer to all cotton growing regions.

*Due to its ability to move large distances, it is important to be on the lookout for fall armyworm in Bollgard II or Bollgard 3 cotton crops and refuges.*

## FALL ARMYWORM IN COTTON

- Fall armyworm may defoliate cotton and can also cause damage to squares and bolls.
- Bollgard II and Bollgard 3 technology are not registered to control fall armyworm and therefore cotton crops containing these traits should be protected as required.

## REFUGE MANAGEMENT AND THE RESISTANCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (RMP)

- Due to the damage this pest can cause, it is vital that unsprayed refuges be checked regularly for fall armyworm. This pest could be capable of impacting the refuge to the point that it may become unattractive and therefore non-compliant.
- The Bollgard II and Bollgard 3 Resistance Management Plans (RMP) state "if the viability of an unsprayed refuge is at risk due to early or late season pressure by *Helicoverpa* spp., or any other caterpillar species, contact Monsanto Australia immediately. With prior approval from Monsanto Australia, a non-Bt heliocide can be applied."
- As with all refuge related issues, the earlier contact is made with your local Territory Business Manager (TBM) the easier it is to rectify.

## MANAGING FALL ARMYWORM

The cotton industry has several emergency-use permits available to control fall armyworm in both Bollgard 3 cotton crops and refuges. The APVMA has approved the use of: chlorantraniliprole and indoxacarb in pigeon peas and chlorantraniliprole, emamectin, indoxacarb and spinetoram in cotton. Permits can be accessed via the APVMA portal at [apvma.gov.au/node/611](http://apvma.gov.au/node/611)



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