



March 2012 PEST Record - THE NETHERLANDS

National Plant Protection Organization
Catharijne Singel 59
3511 GG Utrecht
The Netherlands

Finding one larva of *Helicoverpa armigera* in potted plants of *Pelargonium* destined for the final consumer

Introduction

As part of routine specific surveillance one larva of *Helicoverpa armigera* was intercepted on 6 March 2012 in a lot of 10,000 potted plants of *Pelargonium* destined for the final consumer. Detailed inspection revealed several plants of the same lot in the glasshouse with feeding damage. No damage or other signs of the pest were found in adjacent lots. Eradication measures consist of at least two insecticide sprayings prior to release of the lot. Further investigations at the company and trace-back revealed that the source of the finding is directly linked to the import of cuttings from Kenya. Further specific surveillance at other companies have not revealed any signs of the pest.

The cotton bollworm (*Helicoverpa armigera*) is regulated in particular for plants for planting of *Dendranthema*, *Dianthus*, *Pelargonium* and of the family *Solanaceae*, as part of EU Council Directive 2000/29/EC.

In recent years, similar findings have been recorded in the Netherlands, of which the source is linked to cuttings imported from third countries.

Pest status

Absent, pest eradicated (2003, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012), confirmed by survey.

Geographical distribution

The pest is present and widespread in Asia, Africa and Oceania. *H. armigera* is established in the following EU Member States: Bulgaria, Greece, Portugal, Romania, Spain (widespread) and Cyprus, France, Hungary and Italy (restricted distribution) (Lammers & Macleod, 2007).

Pest significance

Following a pest risk analysis completed in 2007, this pest is regulated in the European Community in relation with specific plants for planting in order to protect greenhouse cultivation of these plants.

Origin of the finding

The source of the finding is considered to be directly linked to a recent import of cuttings of *Pelargonium* from Kenya.

Both outdoor and indoor conditions at the company have not been suitable for development of adult moths. Furthermore no other lots at the company have been found infested. Therefore, other sources of infestation can be excluded.

Phytosanitary measures

Eradication measures consist of at least two insecticide sprayings prior to release of the lot.

References

- NPPO of the Netherlands (March 2012)
- Lammers J.W., Macleod A., (August 2007) Report of a Pest Risk Analysis, Plantenziektenkundige Dienst (The Netherlands) and CSL (United Kingdom), pp.18.