# Cotton—Lygus Monitoring

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## *Supplement to UC IPM Pest Management Guidelines: Cotton*

Always use a standard sweep net with a diameter of 15 inches (37.5 cm). One sample consists of 50 sweeps across a single row of cotton. Take one sample in each quadrant of the field in fields that are up to 8 acres (32 ha.). Take more samples in larger fields. Use one monitoring form per field and sweep twice a week starting in the early squaring season.

**Directions:**

1. Walk briskly down the row and swing the net in front of you so that the lower edge of the rim strikes the plants about 10 inches (25 cm) from the top. Keep the lower tilted edge slightly ahead of the upper edge.
2. Keep the sweeps far enough apart that you do not sweep plants that have already been jostled by the net.
3. Sweeps that are too closely spaced may cause lygus to fly or drop from the plants and thus be missed.
4. Keep the net moving to prevent adults from flying out.
5. After each set of 50 sweeps, count all the lygus bugs in the net and record the number of nymphs and adults separately (nymphs cause more damage).
6. Average the numbers across all samples and record in the last column.
7. Field experience indicates that if the number of lygus bugs per 50 sweeps is 3 or more prior to bloom and square retention is less than expected as indicated by square/fruit retention, then treatment may be warranted.

Field ____________________________________

| Date | Lygus bugs per 50 sweeps | | | | | | | | Average number lygus | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Quadrant 1 | | Quadrant 2 | | Quadrant 3 | | Quadrant 4 | | | |
| | Adults | Nymphs | Adults | Nymphs | Adults | Nymphs | Adults | Nymphs | Adults | Nymphs |
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**Suggested thresholds are 3 to 6 lygus per 50 sweeps prior to bloom and 7 lygus (including at least 1 nymph) per 50 sweeps after bloom.**

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