SILVER ENGLISH COACH

READING COMPREHENSION

Using genetically modified moths to control pests

Genetically modified diamondback moths designed to wipe out wild pest populations were released in fields for the first time in New York state.

Diamondback moths are migratory pests found in the Americas, Europe, New Zealand and Southeast Asia, but especially in areas where crops can be grown year-round.

In these parts - where it's not too hot nor too cold - are where diamondback moths cause the greatest problems, including billions of dollars in damages to cruciferous crops such as cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower and canola. They're one of the most damaging insects because of their high reproduction rate and resistance to most insecticides.

To address these problems in a sustainable, environmentally friendly way, researchers have successfully genetically engineered (GE) male diamondback moths to control the pest population of their wild counterparts, according to findings published Wednesday in the journal Frontiers in Bioengineering and Biotechnology.

"There's a lot of interest in using genetically engineered insects for controlling medically important diseases," said Anthony Shelton, lead author of the study and entomology professor at Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

"In agriculture, though, I think we can take the advantage of genetically engineered insects to control a major pest species."

Answer these questions (choose the **best** answer):

1. Which type of pest are the genetically-modified moths supposed to control?

- A different type of moth
- A different type of insect altogether
- The same species, but the non genetically-modified variety

2. Why are diamondback moths considered a pest?

- They eat other insects.
- They destroy crops.
- They infect animals.

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3. Do insecticides work well on these moths?

- Yes
- The article doesn't say
- No

4. Where will these moths be released?

- New York state
- Southeast Asia
- New Zealand

5. Which of the following is NOT true?

- Diamondback moths damage cabbage, broccoli, and cauliflower.
- Diamondback moths have a low reproduction rate.
- Diamondback moths prefer moderate temperatures.

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