SCOUT FOR CORN EARWORM DAMAGE

genuity
VT DOUBLE PRO® CORN
RIB COMPLETE®

EVERY KERNEL COUNTS

CORN-GROWING AREA

Damage from corn earworm costs growers an estimated 2.5 percent of their yield per year.[1] To effectively manage corn earworm, growers should monitor corn earworm activity in their fields at both the larval and adult stages. Just three damaged kernels per ear can equal one bushel lost per acre.

Corn Earworm

Life cycle

Each year, multiple generations of corn earworm live in the South. Corn earworm moths migrate north on the winds of storms from southern states and, as a result, two generations typically live in the Midwest. The moths lay eggs in corn crops, and the first generation of larvae feeds on the whorl of corn with minimal damage. However, the next generation of moths lays eggs on the corn silks. These second generation larvae travel down the corn silks within one hour of hatching and, from there, feed on corn kernels for most of the larval stage.

Scouting steps

In early spring, growers should estimate potential corn earworm damage by using pheromone traps to capture adult moths that are entering the fields to lay eggs. Growers can go to insectforecast.com for corn earworm migration reports for specific areas. At insectforecast.com, growers can sign up for alerts to keep them armed with the latest information.

When there is no CEW damage present, corn silks CANNOT be pulled out easily.

Corn silks can be pulled out easily when they have been cut or damaged by corn earworm.

A corn ear with cut silks and CEW feeding damage.

Later in the season, growers should monitor fields for damage from larvae by evaluating corn ears. Agronomists recommend the following non-destructive steps to evaluate larval damage while keeping the ears intact:

1. When silks appear, lightly pull on the silks. If the silks have resistance, the silks are intact and no corn earworm damage has occurred.
2. If silks are not intact and can be pulled, continue to pull using slight pressure until the silks pull out.
3. If corn earworm larvae are present, the corn silks will show signs of feeding where they were cut and corn earworm and/or ear damage will be present.

Management

Genuity® VT Double PRO® RIB Complete® corn blend provides growers with two modes of action for above ground insect protection, which can improve grain quality and increase yield potential.

insectforecast Go to insectforecast.com for more information about the risk of corn earworm.

[1]K.A. Cook and R. Weinzierl. 2004. Corn Earworm Insect Fact Sheet. University of Illinois Integrated Pest Management.

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IMPORTANT IRM INFORMATION: Genuity® RIB Complete® corn blend products do not require the planting of a structured refuge **except** in the Cotton-Growing Area where corn earworm is a significant pest. **See the IRM/Grower Guide for additional information. Always read and follow IRM requirements.**

Individual results may vary, and performance may vary from location to location and from year to year. This result may not be an indicator of results you may obtain as local growing, soil and weather conditions may vary. Growers should evaluate data from multiple locations and years whenever possible.

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