

TECHNICAL RECOMMENDATION

Western Bean Cutworm Lifecycle and Management

As corn nears tassel considerations to control Western Bean Cutworm (WBCW) should be made. The WBCW is a sporadic pest that can be found throughout the western corn belt in most years. When present it is often extremely damaging.

Eggs

The eggs are deposited in rather tight clusters ranging from 20 to over 100 eggs, with an average size of about 50 per cluster. The eggs are barrel shaped with small ridges running from the top of egg to the bottom. When first laid by the female, they are bright white and gradually turn purple when the larvae are ready to emerge. The eggs hatch in about 5 to 7 days. Egg masses are usually found on the upper side of the upper leaves

Biology

Females are attracted to corn just prior to the tassel emerging (V16-V17). Females spend the day in the whorl and deposit eggs on the leaves that have yet to emerge, hence when the leaf emerges, the eggs are on the upper surface. Upon hatching, the larvae feed on the eggshells and will feed to some extent on leaf tissue. They will move to the tassel and feed on tassel tissue and pollen. They tend to hatch in mass and will disperse to adjoining plants. Eventually they will move to feed on silks and kernels. Western bean cutworm larvae are not cannibalistic unlike the corn earworm, so it is not uncommon to find several feeding together on the same ear.

Crop Injury

The larvae cause direct injury when they enter the husk and feed on kernels. Though the western bean cutworm will feed on kernels at the ear tip, like corn earworm, they also will feed down the ear and can cause extensive injury to the middle of ear and to the kernels at the base of the ear. Research has shown that an average of 1 larvae per plant at the dent stage can result in a 3.7 bushel yield loss and potentially increase poisons mycotoxins.



Developing egg masses



Larval Stages



Injury to Corn

Photos by

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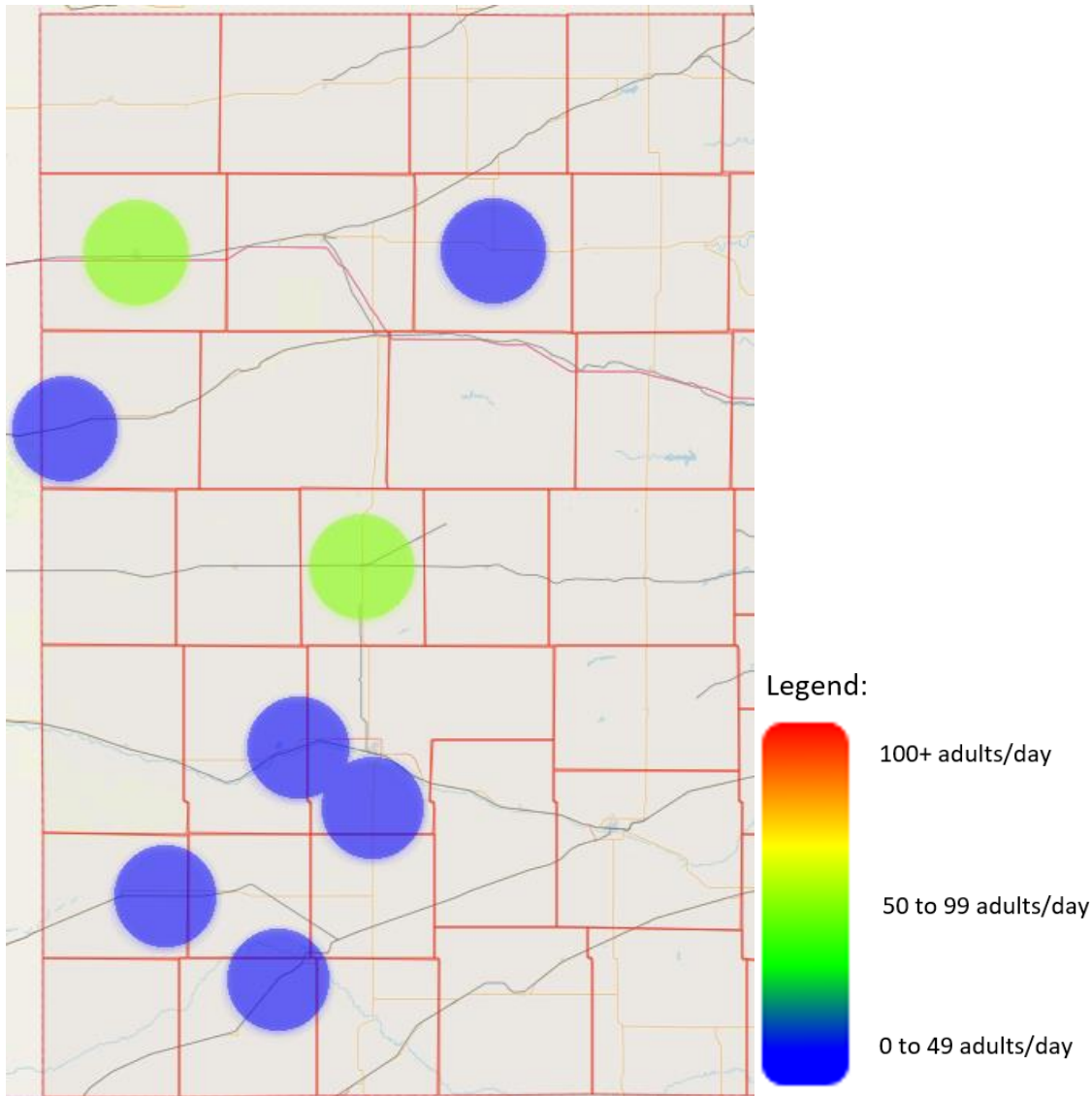
For Control Of Western Bean Cutworm in Corn apply Besiege Insecticide at 6 fl oz/ac to 8 fl oz/ac

- Apply as required by scouting. Timing and frequency of applications should be based upon insect populations reaching locally determined economic thresholds or locally recommended methods.
- Insecticides are recommended if 5% of 100 plants (5 plants) are infested. It is recommended to sample 20 consecutive plants at 5 locations for egg masses or small larvae.
- See label for a complete list of insects controlled
- Do not use more than 31 fl oz/ac/season of Besiege
- Preharvest interval: 21 days for grain and forage
- Integrated Management: Plant corn hybrids with the Agrisure Viptera trait

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WBCW Adult Incidence Map Collected In Pheromone Traps– Updated 7/14/2020



The information on the WBCW Adult Incidence Map is accumulated from sources outside Syngenta or its affiliates. Syngenta makes no representation as to the accuracy of such information. Incidence refers to the amount of adults captured in pheromone traps and does not correlate to the severity of infestation or infestation potential in each field. Fields should be monitored locally for actual insect presence and severity.

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