



PENNSYLVANIA VEGETABLE MARKETING & RESEARCH PROGRAM

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Pennsylvania Vegetable IPM Weekly Update

August 8, 2023

PestWatch Report

MOTH CATCH CONSISTANT ACROSS PENNSYLVANIA

Corn earworm numbers caught in traps reporting data this week were consistent across the state. Sites in Lancaster, Franklin, and Washington counties had the highest statewide averages between 30 and 40 moths caught over the past week. Sites with weekly average counts in this range would be on a 5 day spray cycle for corn that's tasseling or silking. The remaining locations are on a 6-7 day suggested spray cycle based on weekly averages. As a reminder, corn that is tasseling or silking is very attractive to corn earworm, as eggs are laid on silks, and control must be achieved while larvae are recently hatched before they've entered the ear.



Figure 1. A larval corn earworm feeding on corn

Once the spray threshold is reached, you can consider products from the pyrethroid class, diamide class, or spinosyn class for effective control. We tend to see the best efficacy from non-pyrethroid products such as Coragen, Verimark, Blackhawk, and Radiant, as pyrethroid resistance has increased in migrating corn earworm populations. Particularly, we tend to see more resistance later in the season, as moths migrate from further south in the United States up to our region. Diamides and spinosyns do not provide effective control of other pests such as sap beetles, brown marmorated stink bug, Japanese beetles, or adult corn rootworms. If you're seeing these pests as you scout your corn, consider adding a pyrethroid, or the premix Besiege to control those.

for corn earworm, fall armyworm should be adequately controlled, as well. Fall armyworm damage can occur on the ear, as well as on the foliage. Foliage feeding will leave ragged edges and waste that resembles sawdust.

Only 1 fall armyworm was caught this week in Luzerne County. By managing



Figure 2. Fall armyworm feeding damage on corn foliage

Average weekly catch for corn earworm.

Location	23-Jul	30-Jul	6-Aug	Location	23-Jul	30-Jul	6-Aug	Location	23-Jul	30-Jul	6-Aug	
Bedford, Pennsylvania				Franklin, Pennsylvania				Luzerne, Pennsylvania				
Peach Hill Orchard	13	3		Waynesboro	53	1	39	Burger's Farm	23			
Blair, Pennsylvania				Indiana, Pennsylvania				Drums				
Hillview Farms	20	11		Brush Valley	0	4	2	Lycoming, Pennsylvania				
Bucks, Pennsylvania				Yarnick's Farm			17	8	8	Shirey Farm		
Delaware Valley Univ.	23	25	21	Juniata, Pennsylvania				Snyder Farm				
Butler, Pennsylvania				Port Royal			7	8	8	Mifflin, Pennsylvania		
Renfrew	6	6	15	Lackawanna, Pennsylvania				Belleville				
Centre, Pennsylvania				Eckel			0	3		Montgomery, Pennsylvania		
PSU Research Farm	7	3	6	Eckel 2						Souderton		
State College	8	0	0	Lancaster, Pennsylvania				Susquehanna, Pennsylvania				
Clinton, Pennsylvania				Landisville			15	12	10	LaRue's Montrose		
Loganton	14	5	2	Neffsville			4	10	34	Washington, Pennsylvania		
Erie, Pennsylvania				New Danville			42	18	25	Peters Township		
Lake City Nursery Rd	6	5	2	Lehigh, Pennsylvania				York, Pennsylvania				
Lake City Rt 5	2	0	2	Germansville, PA			18	10		York		

THRESHOLDS Reproductive (tassel/silk) and late vegetative corn attract moths. Shorten spray schedules when populations increase.

Threshold based on CEW	Catch per week	Spray Frequency
Almost Absent	1-13	7+
Very low	14-35	5-6
Low	36-70	4-5
Moderate	71-349	3-4
High	>350	2-3