



PENNSYLVANIA VEGETABLE MARKETING & RESEARCH PROGRAM

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Pennsylvania Vegetable IPM Weekly Update

September 6, 2023

These are cooperative projects involving Penn State University researchers, Penn State Cooperative Extension educators, growers, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, the Pennsylvania Vegetable Marketing and Research Program and the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association.

PestWatch Report

MOTH CATCH VARIABLE THIS WEEK

Glen Bupp and Leah Fronk, Penn State Extension

Many sites across PA are not reporting this week. Those that have reported numbers are showing variability with some going seeing an increase in moths and others a decrease. Sites in Erie, Franklin, Lancaster, Mifflin, and York are still in the moderate threshold with suggested spray intervals of 3-4 days. Sites in Centre, Clinton, Indiana, Luzerne, and Washington are seeing low threshold numbers with suggested spray intervals of 4-5 days. The remaining locations are very low or nearly absent indicating a spray intervals of 5-6 or 7+ days.



Fig 1. A corn earworm trap containing over 400 soggy moths after the weekend's storms.

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.

Once the spray threshold is reached, you can consider products from the pyrethroid class, diamide class, or spinosyn class for effective



Fig. 2. Fall armyworm feeding damage on corn

control. We tend to see the best efficacy from non-pyrethroid products, 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. Consider consulting the Mid-Atlantic Commercial Vegetable Recommendations guide for products to use. Diamides and spinosyns do not provide effective control of other pests such as sap beetles, stink bugs, 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.

No fall armyworm was caught in Pennsylvania this week by sites reporting data. By managing 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. Next week will be the last report for 2023.

Average weekly catch for corn earworm.

Location	27-Aug	3-Sep	Location	27-Aug	3-Sep
Butler, Pennsylvania			Lancaster, Pennsylvania		
Renfrew	68	26	Landisville	313	245
Centre, Pennsylvania			Neffsville		
PSU Research Farm	50	69	New Danville	291	304
State College	20	10	Luzerne, Pennsylvania		
Clinton, Pennsylvania			Drums	100	57
Loganton	70	55	Mifflin, Pennsylvania		
Erie, Pennsylvania			Belleville	155	185
Lake City Nursery Rd	17	53	Susquehanna, Pennsylvania		
Lake City Rt 5	106	179	LaRue's Montrose	3	5
Franklin, Pennsylvania			Washington, Pennsylvania		
Waynesboro	85	250	Peters Township	65	49
Indiana, Pennsylvania			York, Pennsylvania		
Brush Valley	37	61	York	80	113
Indiana	16	27			

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

Next week will be the last IPM Update for the 2023 season. Next week's Update will also be one or two days late due to our office staff meeting schedules.