



CORN



MANITOBA
CROP
ALLIANCE

EARLY SEASON INSECT PESTS

Early season insect pests can begin feeding on seed corn even prior to germination, while some feed beyond V6 (6 leaf collars), depending on the insect's life cycle and time of year."

BELOWGROUND FEEDERS



PHOTO: JOHN GAVLOSKI, MANITOBA AGRICULTURE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

SEEDCORN MAGGOT

Crop damage is caused by the larval/maggot stage as they burrow into and feed on the corn seed and destroy seed germ.

Planting under ideal conditions is a good management practice, allowing the crop to germinate and emerge quickly. Some corn hybrids are treated with an insecticide protecting against seedcorn maggot damage. Check the label or the Guide to Field Crop Protection for seed treatments registered for seedcorn maggot in corn.



PHOTO: JOHN GAVLOSKI, MANITOBA AGRICULTURE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

WIREWORM

Larvae: slender, hard-bodied with three small pairs of legs behind the head. The last abdominal segment is flattened with a keyhole-shaped notch. Wireworms do not curl up when disturbed, as cutworms will do.

Where it seems evident from previous crop damage that a wireworm population sufficiently large to become economically damaging is present, an in-furrow insecticide application or the use of a seed treatment containing an insecticide may be profitable.



ABOVE PHOTOS: PHOTO: MORGAN COTT, MANITOBA CROP ALLIANCE.



PHOTOS: JOCELYN SMITH, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

NORTHERN CORN ROOTWORM

Corn rootworm larvae feed on corn roots, clipping the roots back and tunnel into the larger nodal and brace roots. Damaged plants may lodge or develop a curved "goosenecked" stalk.

Crop rotation is the best management practice for corn rootworm control. Larvae can only survive on the roots of corn and a limited number of grasses. Some cultivars of Bt corn are resistant to feeding by corn rootworm. Visit www.cornpest.ca/bt-corn for a list of registered Bt corn hybrids available in Canada.



SURFACE AND ABOVEGROUND FEEDERS



PHOTO: JOHN GAVLOSKI, MANITOBA AGRICULTURE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

ARMYWORM

Larvae: mostly pale green, and in daylight hours can be found in the folded leaves of the whorl. Once grown to ¾ - 1", the larvae turn brown with colour variations among individuals.

Threshold: With early-season feeding, insecticide may be warranted for seedling corn if there are two or more unparasitized larvae per seedling and feeding damage exceeds 10%. For corn past the 6-leaf stage, if 50% of plants are showing damage and larvae smaller than 1", insecticide treatment may be warranted.

Control: Weed control of alternate hosts, such as barnyard grass and some other wild and cultivated grasses.

Insecticides are available and may only be required in the infested areas, rather than whole field.



ABOVE PHOTO: JOHN GAVLOSKI, MANITOBA AGRICULTURE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT. RIGHT PHOTO: MORGAN COTT, MANITOBA CROP ALLIANCE



CUTWORM

Several species of cutworms can occur in corn fields in Manitoba. Appearance can vary greatly, depending on the species. Most cutworms feed at night and most damage occurs between mid-May and the end of June, depending on the stage of the crop and species of cutworm.

Cutworm infestations are infrequent and unpredictable. Some species will cut plants off at the soil surface, while other species will defoliate but are less likely to cut plants. Sometimes only part of a field, or distinct patches will have high levels of cutworms.

Threshold: Foliar insecticides are recommended when 2 - 4% of the plants are cut below the ground or 6 - 8% of the plants are cut above the soil surface, and cutworms less than 1" long are present.

Control: Ground beetles can be important predators of cutworms. Bee flies, tachinid flies and several species of parasitic wasps may parasitize cutworms.

Foliar insecticides are available for controlling cutworms. Since cutworms are most active on a warm night, best control can be obtained if spraying is done on a warm evening. For recommended insecticides, rates and application tips, see the Guide to Field Crop Protection.



MANITOBA
CROP
ALLIANCE

CONNECT WITH US

mbcropalliance.ca
hello@mbcropalliance.ca
P: 204.745.6661

@mb_cropalliance

FUNDING ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Manitoba Crop Alliance gratefully acknowledges the funding support from the Government of Manitoba & Government of Canada through the CAP-Ag Action Manitoba program.