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Western Bean Cutworm Scouting Update 2012

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Abstract

Western bean cutworm (WBC) moths have been reported in several Iowa counties. The first reported moth of 2012 was captured in Benton County, located in the east central part of the state, on June 18th. With the higher than average accumulated heat units, moths may have emerged prior to this date, before traps were in place.

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of a field. On these plants, check for the presence of eggs or young larvae (Figures 2, 3) on the top three to four leaves. Management options and descriptions of WBC are outlined in a previous ICM News article, [Use Treatment Thresholds for Western Bean Cutworm](#).

For field corn, if 5 to 8 percent of plants have eggs or larvae, an insecticide treatment may be warranted. For sweet corn, the threshold is reduced to 4 percent for the processing market and 1 percent for the fresh market. Insecticide application must be timed correctly, before larvae enter the ear to feed. The suggested application timing is 90 to 95 percent tassel emergence, or 70 to 90 percent hatch if tassels have extended.



Figure 2. Western bean cutworm eggs. Frank Peairs, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org



Figure 3. Western bean cutworm larvae that have just emerged. Frank Peairs, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

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