

4-24-2015

Black Cutworm Moths Captured Throughout Midwest

Erin W. Hodgson

Iowa State University, ewh@iastate.edu

Adam Sisson

Iowa State University, ajsisson@iastate.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cropnews>



Part of the [Agricultural Science Commons](#), [Agriculture Commons](#), [Agronomy and Crop Sciences Commons](#), and the [Entomology Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Hodgson, Erin W. and Sisson, Adam, "Black Cutworm Moths Captured Throughout Midwest" (2015). *Integrated Crop Management News*. 322.

<http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cropnews/322>

The Iowa State University Digital Repository provides access to Integrated Crop Management News for historical purposes only. Users are hereby notified that the content may be inaccurate, out of date, incomplete and/or may not meet the needs and requirements of the user. Users should make their own assessment of the information and whether it is suitable for their intended purpose. For current information on integrated crop management from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, please visit <https://crops.extension.iastate.edu/>.

Black Cutworm Moths Captured Throughout Midwest

Abstract

Black cutworm moths (Photo 1) do not overwinter in Iowa and must migrate north annually. Black cutworm moths have been collected in Iowa since the beginning of April 2015. Seeing significant moth captures in early and mid-April is unusual and could indicate a more frequent incidence of vegetative crop injury compared to other years. There have been reports of black cutworm moth trap catches from other states besides Iowa, including Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, and Kentucky. In some places, such as Indiana, peak flights are being reported. A peak flight is a specific number of moths caught in a trap that signals when to begin adding up temperature data to figure out when to scout for larvae.

Keywords

Entomology, Plant Pathology and Microbiology

Disciplines

Agricultural Science | Agriculture | Agronomy and Crop Sciences | Entomology

[Subscribe to Crop News](#)

Archives

[2015](#)[2014](#)[2013](#)[2012](#)[2011](#)[2010](#)[2009](#)[2008](#)[Previous Years](#)

ISU Crop Resources

[Extension Field Agronomists](#)[Crop & Soils Info](#)[Pesticide Applicator Training](#)[Agronomy Extension](#)[Entomology Extension](#)[Plant Pathology Extension](#)[Ag and Biosystems Engineering Extension](#)[Agribusiness Education Program](#)[Iowa Grain Quality Initiative](#)[College of Agriculture and Life Sciences](#)[ISU Extension](#)

Integrated Crop Management NEWS

-  PRINT STORY
-  EMAIL STORY
-  ADD TO DELICIOUS
-  ATOM FEED
-  FOLLOW ON TWITTER

Black Cutworm Moths Captured Throughout Midwest

By Erin Hodgson, Department of Entomology, Adam Sisson, Integrated Pest Management, and Laura Jesse, Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic.

Black cutworm moths (Photo 1) do not overwinter in Iowa and must migrate north annually. Black cutworm moths have been collected in Iowa since the beginning of April 2015. Seeing significant moth captures in early and mid-April is unusual and could indicate a more frequent incidence of vegetative crop injury compared to other years. There have been reports of black cutworm moth trap catches from other states besides Iowa, including Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, and Kentucky. In some places, such as Indiana, peak flights are being reported. A peak flight is a specific number of moths caught in a trap that signals when to begin adding up temperature data to figure out when to scout for larvae.



Photo 1. Adult black cutworm moth. Notice the characteristic dagger-shaped marks on the forewings of this pest. Image by Adam Sisson.

The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach IPM Program organizes a network of farmers, agronomists, Extension personnel, and others to monitor black cutworm traps around state (Photo 2). At least one county in Iowa has reported a peak flight so far this season, while lots of traps are reporting low numbers. Of the 101 traps placed across Iowa, 46 haven't caught a single moth as of April 23.



Photo 2. Black cutworm moth traps use a pheromone lure to attract night-flying moths and a sticky board to collect adults. Image by Adam Sisson.

The sporadic nature of this mobile pest makes scouting essential to determine if management is needed. The IPM Program uses this moth capture data and temperature data to estimate when farmers are most likely to see larvae in their fields. Adult moth trap captures do not necessarily mean there will be economically significant black cutworm infestations in a particular location, however. Field scouting is essential to determine if an economically damaging infestation exists.

Look for a future ICM News article including a map for the estimated black cutworm cutting data in Iowa when peak flights are determined.

Erin Hodgson is an assistant professor of entomology with extension and research responsibilities; contact at ewh@iastate.edu or phone 515-294-2847.

Laura Jesse is an entomologist with the Iowa State University Extension Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic; contact at ljesse@iastate.edu or by phone 515-294-0581.

Adam Sisson is an extension specialist for the Integrated Pest Management. He can be contacted by email at ajsisson@iastate.edu or by calling 515-294-5899.

This article was published originally on 4/24/2015. The information contained within the article may or may not be up to date depending on when you are accessing the information.

Links to this material are strongly encouraged. This article may be republished without further permission if it is published as written and includes credit to the author, Integrated Crop Management News and Iowa State University Extension. Prior permission from the author is required if this article is republished in any other manner.