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Earliest capture ever for western bean cutworm in Iowa

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Earliest capture ever for western bean cutworm in Iowa

Abstract

It was quite a surprise today (June 18) when I received an e-mail confirming the first capture of an adult western bean cutworm in Iowa for 2007. Ben Linn, and previously his sister Sara, have operated a blacklight trap on their parents' farm near Correctionville in Woodbury County now for six years. Their earliest collection of an adult western bean cutworm has previously been June 24 but sometimes coming as late as July 10 (Table 1). Ben sent a photograph showing the moth on the day's newspaper.

Keywords

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Earliest capture ever for western bean cutworm in Iowa

by Marlin E. Rice, Department of Entomology

It was quite a surprise today (June 18) when I received an e-mail confirming the first capture of an adult western bean cutworm in Iowa for 2007. Ben Linn, and previously his sister Sara, have operated a blacklight trap on their parents' farm near Correctionville in Woodbury County now for six years. Their earliest collection of an adult western bean cutworm has previously been June 24 but sometimes coming as late as July 10 (Table 1). Ben sent a photograph showing the moth on the day's newspaper.



The first confirmed western bean cutworm of 2007 was captured on June 18 in Woodbury County, Iowa. (Ben Linn)

This early capture date of a western bean cutworm suggests two items. First, our pheromone trapping network across Iowa was scheduled to begin on June 20, so we should be right on target for capturing the first moths as soon as the traps go up.

Second, moths are going to be attracted to corn that is in the pretassel and beginning tassel

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stages. Corn fields in these growth stages but not planted with a Herculex® I or Herculex® Xtra hybrid should be scouted for eggs and newly hatching larvae about a week after the first moth capture. I'll provide more information next week on scouting recommendations for this insect.

Table 1. Six-year blacklight captures of western bean cutworm adults from Woodbury Co., Iowa, 2002-2007.

Year	First Capture	Peak Capture	Last Capture	Total
2002	June 28	July 13	August 11	12,739
2003	July 10	August 1	August 17	244
2004	July 5	July 23	August 10	531
2005	June 28	July 13	August 10	1,328
2006	June 24	July 15	August 14	1,183
2007	June 18	--	--	1

Marlin E. Rice is a professor of entomology with extension and research responsibilities.

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