

5-28-2001

Variegated cutworms found in corn

Marlin E. Rice

Iowa State University, merice@iastate.edu

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



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

Recommended Citation

Rice, Marlin E., "Variegated cutworms found in corn" (2001). *Integrated Crop Management News*. 1986.
<http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cropnews/1986>

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 Users are hereby notified that the content may be inaccurate, out of date, incomplete and/or may not meet the needs and requirements of the user.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/>.

Variegated cutworms found in corn

Abstract

Mark Carlton, extension crop specialist, and I found a field in Marion County on May 16 that had variegated cutworms feeding on young corn plants. The variegated cutworms were feeding on the leaves, chewing both circular holes and eating along the leaf margin. We did not find any variegated cutworms actually cutting corn plants or in the soil near cut plants, although the field did have black cutworms 1.5 inches in length and wireworms that were causing stand loss.

Keywords

Entomology

Disciplines

Agricultural Science | Agriculture | Entomology

INTEGRATED CROP MANAGEMENT

Variegated cutworms found in corn

Mark Carlton, extension crop specialist, and I found a field in Marion County on May 16 that had variegated cutworms feeding on young corn plants. The variegated cutworms were feeding on the leaves, chewing both circular holes and eating along the leaf margin. We did not find any variegated cutworms actually cutting corn plants or in the soil near cut plants, although the field did have black cutworms 1.5 inches in length and wireworms that were causing stand loss.



Variegated cutworm.

[Enlarge](#) [1]

This is the first time that I have seen variegated cutworm attack corn and I would consider the behavior very rare. Variegated cutworms are fairly common in alfalfa. They also were abundant on common milkweed in this particular field.

Variegated cutworms can be identified by the very small yellow spots along the top of each body segment and the dark triangular spot near the tail end of the larva. The yellow spots may be hard to see or nonexistent near the end of the cutworm if it is an early instar. The variegated cutworm also might be confused with the armyworm because both species have black stripes on their prolegs.



Variegated cutworm feeding on corn.

[Enlarge](#) [2]

Leaf feeding by variegated cutworms will not cause economic damage. Chemical control of variegated cutworms is probably unnecessary in corn.

This article originally appeared on pages 90-91 of the IC-486(11) -- May 28, 2001 issue.

Source URL:

<http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm//ipm/icm/2001/5-28-2001/varicutworms.html>

Links:

[1] <http://www.ent.iastate.edu/imagegal/lepidoptera/vcutworm/045variegatedcworm.html>

[2] <http://www.ent.iastate.edu/imagegal/lepidoptera/vcutworm/vcutwormoncorn.html>

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension