5-28-2010

Predicted 2010 Corn Rootworm Hatch

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, Entomology Commons, and the Meteorology Commons

Recommended Citation
http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cropnews/430

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 Users are hereby notified that the content may be inaccurate, out of date, incomplete and/or may not meet the needs and requirements of the user.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/.
Predicted 2010 Corn Rootworm Hatch

Abstract
There were several reports of lightning bugs (fireflies) throughout the state last week. Some people correlate fireflies with corn rootworm larval hatch in the Midwest. Based on conversations with Marlin Rice, former ISU entomologist, and Mike Gray, entomologist from University of Illinois, they believe these events are unrelated. Instead, corn rootworm hatch predictions are more accurately based on temperature accumulations.

Keywords
Entomology

Disciplines
Agricultural Science | Agriculture | Entomology | Meteorology

This article is available at Iowa State University Digital Repository: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cropnews/430
Predicted 2010 Corn Rootworm Hatch

By Erin Hodgson, Department of Entomology and Adam Sisson, Corn and Soybean Initiative

There were several reports of lightning bugs (fireflies) throughout the state last week. Some people correlate fireflies with corn rootworm larval hatch in the Midwest. Based on conversations with Martin Rice, former ISU entomologist, and Mike Gray, entomologist from University of Illinois, they believe these events are unrelated. Instead, corn rootworm hatch predictions are more accurately based on temperature accumulations.

Research shows about fifty percent of corn rootworm larvae will hatch from 684 to 767 accumulated growing degree days (base 52 F). The map below displays the number of accumulated degree days from Jan. 1 to May 25 for Iowa. Corn rootworm hatch should be happening in the southeast part of the state. Other parts of the state should experience larval hatch in the next 7 days.

**Iowa 2010 GDD (base=52) Accumulation**

*Map Valid: 1 Jan - 25 May 2010*

Accumulated growing degree days (base 52 F) in Iowa from Jan. 1 – May 25, 2010. Fifty percent corn rootworm hatch is expected to occur between 684 and 767 degree days. This map was created by Iowa Environmental Mesonet, Department of Agronomy at Iowa State University.

**Scouting**

Ideally, every corn field should be inspected for corn rootworm larvae after reaching 50 percent hatch. Non-Bt fields are most susceptible to larval damage and should be considered a priority. Continuous Bt corn fields with previous damage should also be scouted. Sample for larvae by digging up corn plants and washing the roots in a bucket; larvae should float to the top of
the water. Sample corn plants in different areas of the field to estimate infestation levels.

Corn rootworm damage on the roots of a corn plant

Larvae of the corn rootworm (Photos by Marlin Rice)

Erin Hodgson is an assistant professor of entomology with extension and research responsibilities. She can be contacted by email at ewh@iastate.edu or phone (515) 294-2847. Adam Sisson is a program assistant with responsibilities with the Corn and Soybean Initiative. Sisson can be contacted by email at ajsisson@iastate.edu or by calling (515) 294-5899.

This article was published originally on 5/28/2010 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