

Insects and Disease Update

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Mark Licht, field agronomist
Joel DeJong, field agronomist
ISU Extension
Wayne Roush, superintendent

Black Cutworm

Black cutworms are an occasional pest of seedling corn that can cause significant damage. Moth flights are used to anticipate when cutting from black cutworms would begin and therefore predict when scouting should begin. Cutting dates are projected to occur at about 300 accumulated degree days (base 51°F) from a peak flight. A pheromone trap was placed at the research farm in 2010. The peak flight of 13 moths occurred on April 17. There was occasional cutting damage in western Iowa, but nothing widespread.

Western Bean Cutworm

Western bean cutworm is a late-season pest that can cause tremendous damage to corn ears. Unlike past years, western bean cutworm moth counts were not taken at the farm. But trap data from other west central Iowa counties indicate low moth flights for the 2010 growing season. Based on growing degree units and moth captures field scouting was advised after July 12.

Soybean Aphids

In 2010, soybean aphids were not the problem they had been in 2007, 2008, and 2009. In 2010 very few acres had enough soybean aphids to warrant an insecticide application.