

Scouting for Corn Rootworm Beetles with Sticky Traps

Estimating Rootworm Populations

- Counting corn rootworm populations late in the summer can help predict potential root injury by corn rootworm larvae the following season. Beetle counts allow growers to make better informed decisions regarding corn rootworm control.
- University research has shown that yellow sticky traps are an easy, convenient, and reliable method for estimating corn rootworm populations within a cornfield.

Use Yellow Sticky Traps

- PHEROCON® AM/NB traps** (no bait) are the preferred product for trapping corn rootworm beetles.
- Trapping should begin at the blister stage (R2) after silking is complete.
- Count the beetles on each trap. If the beetle count exceeds 70 beetles in 7 days, no more trapping is needed. If the beetle count is below a 70 beetle per trap average, place new traps in the field and continue another 7 days. Continue this process for 4 weeks, and if populations are still increasing, continue trapping 2 additional weeks.

Trap Placement

- Place 12 traps per field, arranged down two rows and the length of the field.
- Traps should be at least 100 feet from the field edge; beetle populations at field edges can be higher or lower due to beetle movement to or from neighboring fields.
 - Attach the trap to the stalk directly above the ear.
 - Fold the trap with the sticky side out around the stalk and fasten using a twist tie. Lock the trap tab in the lower corner of the trap.
 - Remove leaves on adjacent plants that may get caught on the trap.
 - Mark the ends of the rows where the traps are located.



The Pherocon AM/NB trap is used to sample for corn rootworms. Proper placement in corn is at ear height.



Beetle Identification



western corn rootworm



northern corn rootworm

Action Thresholds

Contact your local DuPont Pioneer sales professional for best management practices for corn rootworm.

- <30 beetles per trap per week
 - Low** rootworm populations anticipated the following year.
 - Economic damage from corn rootworms may occur if growing conditions are dry.
- 30-70 beetles are trapped in a single week.
 - Moderate** rootworm populations anticipated the following year. Select one of the rootworm control options for moderate pressure:
 - Plant rootworm resistant Bt corn.
 - Control larvae in corn the following year with a soil-applied insecticide at planting.
 - Use a timely application(s) of foliar insecticide to control adult beetles prior to egg-laying.
- >70 beetles or more are trapped in a single week.
 - High** rootworm populations anticipated the following year. Consider one of the following options:
 - Rotate to another crop (best choice for resistance management in areas where western or northern rootworm variants are not a concern).
 - Use a timely application(s) of foliar insecticide to control adult beetles prior to egg-laying, and use a rootworm-resistant Bt corn or soil-applied insecticide the following year.
 - Plant corn rootworm-resistant Bt corn and consider adding a soil-applied insecticide.
 - Use a pyramided rootworm protection Bt product. If in Cry3Bb1 or mCry3A problem areas, consider adding a soil-applied insecticide.

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