

# FORAGER



*Agronomics with livestock in mind!*



## SCOUT FOR CUTWORMS!

Cutworm is a term to describe numerous wormlike insects that are destructive to field crops. Most producers are familiar with the black cutworm and recently with the true armyworm, from lessons learned in the past couple of years. One of the best write ups is from a 2001 publication from Iowa State that puts the pieces of management of cutworms together. This link provides the fact sheet that will allow [you] to understand the management of the pest.

<http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/2001/5-7-2001/earlyscout.html>

To summarize and apply this to current conditions: I observed cutworm moths in Lebanon (PA) area fields on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007 (200 heat units). While this is not the peak flight, it is in the ball park. The years that I have had traps out, average moth flight occurred on April 9. This year was a little later. With the flight information and my keeping heat units in the office after 300 heat units from peak flight we should begin to see cutting. Currently we have 450 heat units (May 2007) and by subtracting 200 from 450 we get a development of 250 heat units that apply to cutworms. Knowing that they require about 300 heat units to begin cutting, producers should be able to scout for this pest in the next week (look for holes and feeding on the leaves and any clipped plants) and see some chewed leaves and cutting. They feed at night - so look for a cut plant plugging a hole that they hide in.

Here are the Agronomy Guide recommendations for scouting: Cutworm Responsive Treatments Threshold: (Plants cut per 100) Seeding: 2, V2: 3, V3: 5, V4: 7, V5: Seldom an economic problem.

Here are the insecticide recommendations: Poncho 1250 and Herculex will provide some relief from the pest. Keep scouting if there are cut plants and healthy insects at threshold levels for treatment.



Some insecticides labeled for black cutworms in corn and their application rates are as follows:

Insecticide	Rate
Ambush <sup>®</sup>	6.4-12.8 oz/acre
Asana XL <sup>®</sup>	5.8-9.6 oz/acre
Baythroid 2 <sup>®</sup>	0.8-1.6 oz/acre
Capture 2EC <sup>®</sup>	2.1-6.4 oz/acre
Discipline 2EC <sup>®</sup>	2.1-6.4 oz/acre
Lorsban 4E <sup>®</sup>	1-2 pt/acre
Mustang Max <sup>®</sup>	1.28-2.8 oz/acre
Nufos 4E <sup>®</sup>	1-2 pt/acre
PennCap-M <sup>®</sup>	4 pt/acre
Pounce 3.2E <sup>®</sup> C	4-8 oz/acre
Sevin XLR Plu <sup>®</sup> s	2 qt/acre
Warrior <sup>®</sup>	1.92-3.2 oz/acre

I also viewed armyworm moths (they have a white fleck on an otherwise dark wing) flying in the last couple of weeks. They are typically later occurring than cutworms, but may be observed feeding now. They are active during the day and will not typically cut off plants at the surface like cutworms do. They normally are not an issue in conventional tillage. In no-till, however, scouting is critical particularly after a small grain cover. Here are the thresholds:

**Armyworm (True) - Early Season** - 25% of plants damaged or some plants are being killed.

*Pseudaletia unipuncta* - Late Season - feeding occurs above the ear on 10 to 20% of plants.

And watch for more worms later... once the European corn borers begin their flight and earworms move in!

(edited from an article by Del Voight, Regional Field Crop Pest Management Educator, Pennsylvania State University)

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