

● Agricultural Research and Extension on Tree Fruits and Vegetables ●

Sweet Corn Pest Report

Tuesday, June 18

The trap catch data in our sweet corn fields in New Paltz indicates the onset of high populations of first brood adult European corn borer.

Female ECB moths have been laying egg masses on the underside of the corn leaves and larval feeding can be observed in corn at all stages of development.

Typical examples of ECB feeding are a series of straight line pinholes as well as “window pane” damage on the emerging leaves from the whorl. Window pane damage occurs when the young ECB larvae feed on the upper epidermal of the leaf leaving a clear lower level epidermal. Attached are pictures that show both types of damage.

Research has demonstrated that applying insecticides for first brood ECB before the tassel emergence does not significantly increase control. In the whorl stage the ECB larvae are protected within the leaves of the whorl. It is recommended to wait until tassel emergence before applying insecticide. When the tassels begin to emerge the ECB larvae are exposed and begin to look for a more protected environment.

The threshold for insecticide application at the tassel emergence stage is 15% infested plants.

2013 European corn borer (ECB), Fall Armyworm (FAW), and Corn Earworm (CEW) Adult Flight Data Wallkill View Farms, New Paltz, NY

