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● **Agricultural Research and Extension on Tree Fruits and Vegetables** ●

Sweet Corn Pest Report

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Scouting for lepidopteran larva should begin this week for armyworm, cutworm and European corn borer. as larva feeding becomes more evident and economic injury has been detected in the field.

Armyworm: No reports of armyworm have been reported in the mid-Hudson Valley this season. However, Hudson Valley growers experienced outbreaks of the common armyworm, *Mythimna unipuncta* in 2012 with severe economic injury in early planted sweet corn on farms in Dutchess County. Fields planted later then mid-April much lower levels of infestation were present. The army worm is notorious for moving on mass from one field to the next and due diligence is required to maintain control of this insect if it appears this season.





Heavily infested sweet corn damage from the common army worm *Mythimna unipuncta*; dead larva at the base of plants.

European corn borer: We observed our first trap captures of the adult European corn borer on the 13th of May in New Paltz. Populations continue to climb with high trap captures of the E Strain this week. We are approaching first brood moth population peak for the latter part of next week as indicated by historical trap capture data (see 2012 graph). Scouting can begin in fields that are in the whorl stage. Female ECB moths have been laying egg masses on the underside of the corn leaves and larval feeding should be evident in fields that are nearing the tassel stage. It is likely that corn with ECB injury will have higher damage levels along the perimeter.

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.

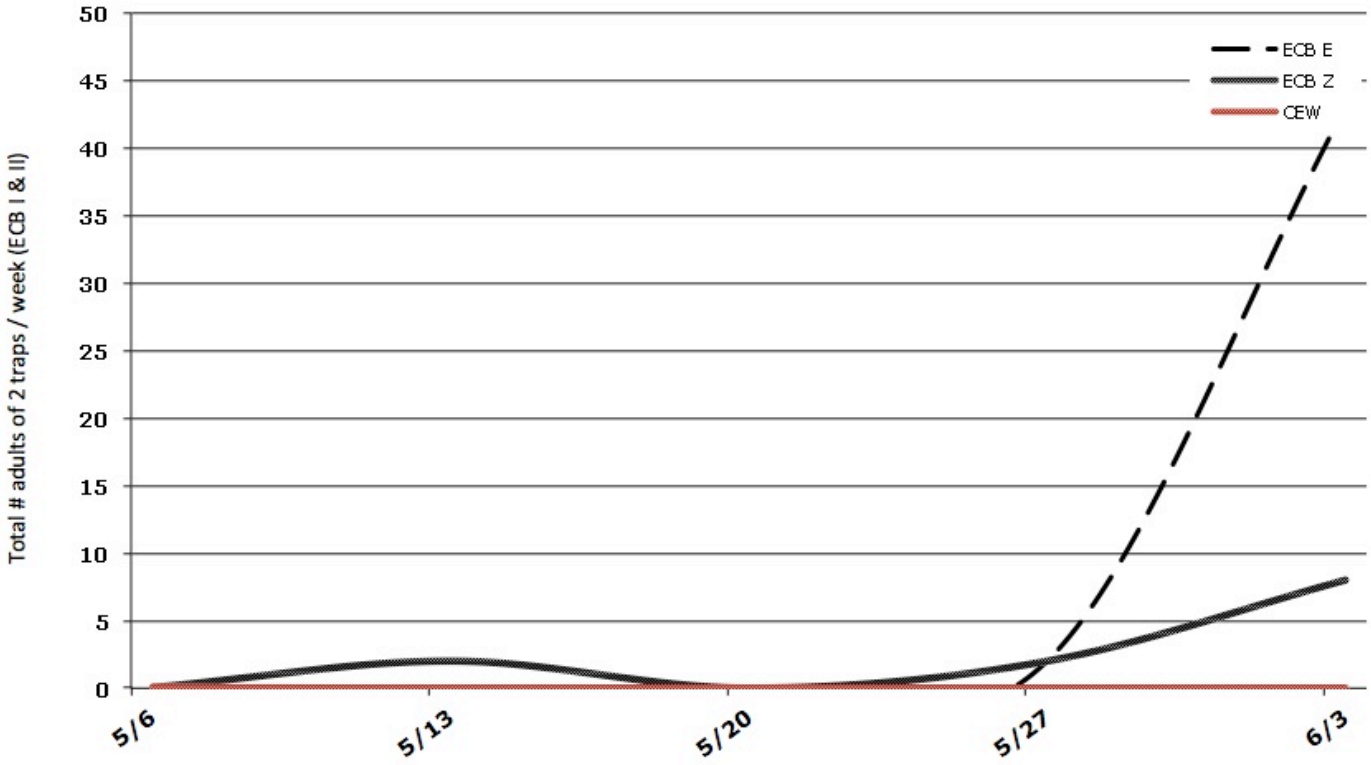
The threshold for insecticide application at the tassel emergence stage is 15% infested plants.


Adult ECB and Egg Mass

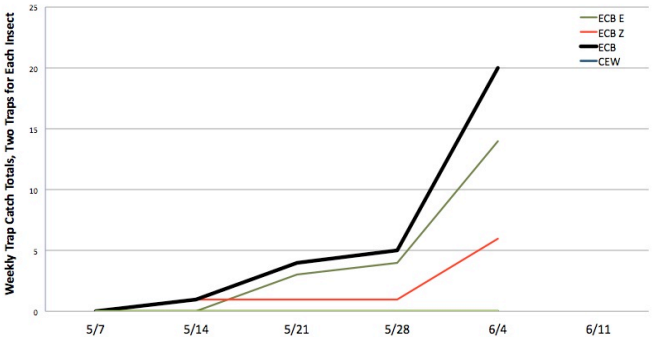

ECB pinhole damage

ECB "window pane" damage

Sweet Corn Insect Pheromone Trap Catch, New Paltz, NY 2013



ECB, CEW and FAW Pheromone Trap Catch Data, New Paltz, NY 2012



ECB Pheromone Trap Catch Data Hurley, NY 2012