



SOUTHWEST NEW YORK FIELD CROP CHRONICLE

Compiled by Josh Putman - Field Crops Specialist, SWNY Dairy, Livestock, Field Crops Program

716-490-5572

jap473@cornell.edu

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Cereal Leaf Beetle in Western NY - Scout your Small Grains!

-Written by Dr. Chris DiFonzo, Michigan State University Extension-

The cereal leaf beetle is a small grain pest that is native to Europe and Asia. Cereal leaf beetle adults overwinter along edges of field. They have pretty dark-blue wing covers, a distinctive red thorax (a red neck), and red legs. They emerge in the spring and lay eggs on the upper surface of small grain leaves. Larvae are white, fat, and hump-backed with a black head and six small legs. However, larvae won't appear white in the field because they have a unique defense mechanism to avoid being eaten – they smear a covering of excrement over their body, as in the photograph.

Larvae feed for two to three weeks on grain leaves, scraping the leaf surface. Hot-spots in fields appear white or frosted (similar to heavy alfalfa weevil feeding), but damage to an entire field is rare. Infestations may be greater along field edges, and **greater in oats than in wheat**.

Larvae pupate underground in late-May or early June. There is only one generation per year. New adults emerge and may feed on small grains or corn briefly, but then they spend the rest of the summer in an inactive state along field edges. Thus the only damage occurs in May and early June as larvae feed. Scout you small grain fields in SWNY as an insecticide may be needed to manage this pest. ***Always read and follow label recommendations***

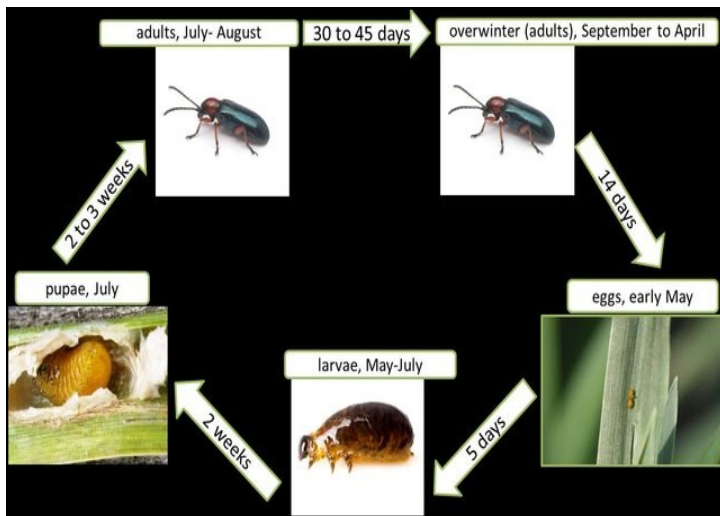


Figure of cereal leaf beetle life cycle by Aldo Tios



Photos: larvae by MSU (left) and damage in oats NYS IPM (right)

Time to Scout for Black Cutworm Caterpillars

Corn is out of the ground and averaging V2-V3 growth stage in SWNY. We are at the point now where black cutworm caterpillars may be present in your corn fields causing damage. Fields that favor cutworm outbreaks include fields planted into cover crop, fields previously sod or pasture, and weedy fields. Treatment of fields is suggested if 5% or more of the plants have been cut. Since the larvae are active at night, insecticides should be applied late in the day for best control. Scout your corn for cut plants in SWNY.

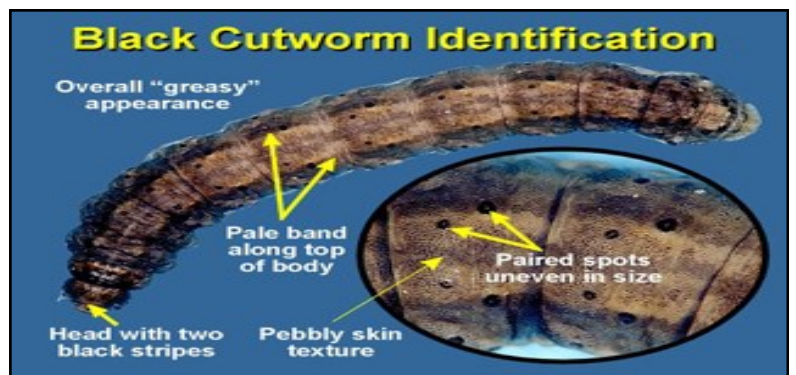


Figure by University of Nebraska - Lincoln

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