



SOUTHWEST NEW YORK FIELD CROP CHRONICLE

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Time to Scout for Black Cutworm Caterpillars in Western NY!

Corn has emerged in SWNY and black cutworm caterpillars may be present in your corn fields. Conditions that favor cutworm outbreaks include fields planted late, no-till/minimum till or planting into sod, fields bordered by dense vegetation, fields in low-lying areas and corn planted without the black cutworm (BCW) Bt trait. The key to cutworm control is to closely monitor emerging plants. Check fields frequently until plants are well-established (they are vulnerable to damage until V6) and be sure to look for missing, cut, or wilted plants. Treatment is suggested when 5% or more of the plants have been cut. Due to larvae's activity at night, chemicals should be applied late in the day for best control.

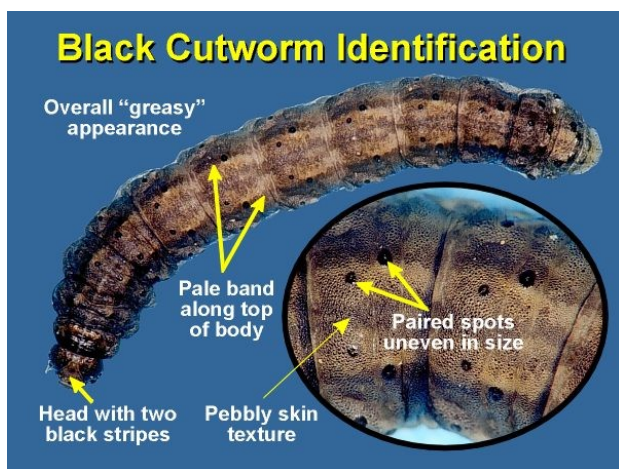


Figure by University of Nebraska - Lincoln



Photos: damage in corn by University of Tennessee (left) and UNL (right)

Slug Damage

Scouting in Cattaraugus and Erie counties show slug damage occurring in both corn and soybeans. Slug activity occurs at night and increases with wet conditions. When plant residue remains on the soil surface, such as in no-till systems or weedy fields, slugs will feed on the lower part of plants, leaving narrow, irregular scars on leaves. Their feeding patterns can be confused with earwigs and other caterpillars, so look for silvery mucous trails to confirm slugs. Damage is most severe on emerging plants so those fields should be scouted. There are currently no economic thresholds or effective insecticides for slug damage so ensuring that seed slots properly close with planting and reducing the amount of residue on your field serve as the best options to reduce population and damage.



Photos: corn seedling damage by J. Obermeyer (above) and soybean seedling damage by Dominic Reisig (right)

HELPING YOU PUT KNOWLEDGE TO WORK

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