

Report Seedcorn Maggot and Wireworm Damage: WE NEED YOUR INPUT

Given the recent controversy surrounding the proposed legislative bans on some pesticides in NY, Cornell researchers and extension specialists are working to provide necessary data on the efficacy, usefulness and perceived need for these products in our agricultural systems. To do this, we need your help with identifying, documenting and quantifying losses to early season pests, such as seedcorn maggot and wireworm in your corn and soybean fields.

A collaborative effort between the NYS Integrated Pest Management program and Cornell Cooperative Extension field crop specialists will begin in 2020 with the goal of monitoring for and documenting losses to pests that the neonic seed treatments are intended to protect against. Given the sporadic distribution of damage caused by seedcorn maggot and wireworm, it can be challenging to quantify losses to these pests in research plots alone. Therefore, we need assistance from farmers, crop consultants, agribusiness associates, and crop insurance claim adjusters to report fields with damage from these pests across NY State.

Your valuable input would require nothing more than a phone call or email to your local field crops extension specialist to report the specific location of damage soon after planting, while pests are still active and can be confirmed (by V2 stage). The extension specialist will then visit the field to confirm pest activity, and may conduct plant stand counts to estimate potential yield losses. Location and farm identity will remain anonymous, as we are only interested in quantifying losses across NYS, not where they occur.

Claims on the value (or lack thereof) of these insecticide seed treatments in NY field crop production cannot be validated or quantified without this sort of data, and we can't obtain this statewide data without your assistance. Therefore, whether you grow corn for silage or grain (or even sweet corn), soybean or dry beans, conventionally or organically, we need to hear from you! Please refer to the following list of specialists to contact in your region to report damage from seedcorn maggot or wireworm in your fields this spring:

Mike Stanyard (NWNYS CCE) – mjs88@cornell.edu, 585-764-8452
Jodi Putman (NWNYS CCE) – jll347@cornell.edu, 585-991-5437
Jaime Cummings (statewide, NYS IPM) – jc2246@cornell.edu, 607-255-1747
Josh Putman (SWNYS CCE) – jap473@cornell.edu, 716-490-5572
Janice Degni (SCNYS CCE) – jgd3@cornell.edu, 607-391-2660, x414
Ron Kuck (Cayuga Co. CCE) – rak76@cornell.edu, 315-255-1183, x242
Jeff Miller (Oneida Co. CCE) – jjm14@cornell.edu, 315-736-3394, x120
Kevin Ganoe (CNY CCE) – khg2@cornell.edu, 315-866-7920, x230
Aaron Gabriel (ENY CCE) – adg12@cornell.edu, 518-380-1496
Ken Wise (ENY, NYS IPM) – klw24@cornell.edu, 845-677-8223
Christian Malsatzki (SENYS CCE) – cpm78@cornell.edu, 845-340-3990
Joe Lawrence (statewide, PRO Dairy) – jrl65@cornell.edu, 315-778-4814
Mike Hunter (NNYS CCE) – meh27@cornell.edu, 315-788-8450, x266
Kitty O'Neil (NNYS CCE) – kao32@cornell.edu, 315-854-1218
Elson Shields (Cornell Field Crops Entomologist) – es28@cornell.edu, 607-255-8428