

Rootworms pose threat to first year corn

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — Most corn producers are aware of the threat rootworms, whether they are of the northern, southern or western species, pose to continuous corn and take steps to prevent potential yield loss by applying soil insecticides. Few growers, however, know that this insect can reduce the yield of first-year corn, say agronomists with Funk Seeds International.

They point out that growers who try to save on pesticide costs in first-year corn by not treating for rootworms may stand to lose more than the cost of treatment.

"My philosophy is that producers can't afford to grow first-year corn following soybeans without an insecticide because of corn rootworm," says Funk agronomist Dr. Bill Craig.

Craig feels some growers think the potential for rootworm damage is absent in first-year corn because soybeans are not a good host crop for a build-up of rootworm populations.

However, he points out that a soybean field can be a good place for rootworms to multiply to economically damaging levels if it is weedy.

"If there's a weedy soybean field, whether it's grasses, broadleaf weeds or volunteer corn, the weeds will furnish the rootworm beetles with a food supply while they are mobile and depositing eggs for the next generation, from midsummer on," Dr. Craig explains. "When flowering, these weeds serve as hosts for the beetles, which feed on the pollen."

"In a clean soybean field, the problem is less likely to occur, but rootworm beetles will migrate to a soybean field, particularly if it is close to a corn field or if it is dry and the soybeans are lusher than the surrounding vegetation."

Craig encourages growers to apply a soil insecticide when planting corn in a field that had been a soybeans the previous year. He points out that several registered insecticides, including Amaze, Counter, Dyfonate, Furadan, Lorsban, Mocap and Thimet, give good rootworm control.

"If they plant early, growers might consider a split application of the insecticide, which usually means applying half of the recommended rate at planting and the other half at lay-by or the last cultivation," he says. "However, specialists do not recommend that the full

recommended rate be exceeded, whether the insecticide is applied all at once or in a split application."

It costs \$6-\$8 an acre to treat for rootworms, according to Dr. Craig, but it doesn't take much of a saving in yield loss to offset the cost of treatment.

It's been proven over and over that one rootworm per corn plant can cost a grower eight-tenths of a bushel in yield loss per acre," Coffman says. "If you figure that the average rootworm beetle lays 1,000 eggs and 20 per cent of these hatch, the

potential for yield loss is great."

Coffman says volunteer corn and some 20 kinds of weeds, including foxtail, serve as hosts for corn rootworm beetles. The abundance of these weeds in soybean fields in 1978 meant a plentiful supply of food for the egg-laying beetles, increasing the rootworm threat to first-year corn in 1979.

For further information, contact Sam Brungardt, Bader Rutter and Associates, Inc., 733 N. Van Buren, Milwaukee, Wis., 53202.

Md. Farm and Land Institute sets date for meeting, workshop

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — After 16 years on the University of Maryland campus at College Park, the board of directors for Maryland chapter No. 32 of the Farm and Land Institute has decided to make its annual meeting and educational workshop a peripatetic event by moving it around the state from year to year.

As a started, the 70th annual event is set for February 12-14, 1979, in the Sheraton Motor Inn, located east of Hagerstown on U.S. highway 40.

Major theme for this year's workshop will be

"How to Establish the Value of Rural Real Estate." Other topics will include a discussion of recent legislation dealing with land transfers and land use in Maryland and the nation.

Workshop instructors will be College of Agriculture faculty members from the University of Maryland. They will include Dr. Sidney Ishee, Dr. George A. Stevens and Dr. John W. Wysong, all professors of agricultural and resource economics.

The chapter's annual business meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. on February 12, with the annual social hour

and banquet scheduled that evening.

Daytime workshop sessions are set for February 13 and 14. Because of space restrictions, workshop enrollment will be limited to the first 100 persons who register.

Registration for the FLI chapter's 1979 annual meeting and workshop at Hagerstown can be made by contacting: William D. Cissel, Sec'y-Treasurer, Maryland chapter No. 32 Farm and Land Institute, R.D. 2, Box 120, Rising Sun, Md. 21911, (301) 658-6267.

Additional information concerning the workshop can be obtained from Dr. Ray A. Murray, Extension agricultural economist, 2105 Svmons Hall, University of

Maryland, College Park, Md. 20742; (301) 454-3807.

Maryland chapter No. 32 of the Farm and Land Institute has membership in both Maryland and

Delaware. Interested persons in adjoining areas of Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia are, also welcome to attend its meetings.

Seminar on depression to be held

BROWNSTOWN — The Brownstown Christian Counseling Center in Brownstown, is planning to conduct a one evening seminar on the topic of helping a depressed person. The course will deal with the four basic root causes of depression, physiology and depression and steps that

are conducive in helping a depressed person.

The seminar will be conducted by Mr. Walt Croom who is the founder and director of the Brownstown Christian Counseling Center.

Mr. Croom has written numerous articles, tracts and booklets. He is also the

author of the Christian Living Series which appears in booklet and cassette tape album form.

The seminar on how to help a depressed person will be conducted January 26, 1979. For more information please contact the Brownstown Christian Counseling Center at 717-859-3056.



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