

Rootworm Damage Possible In Del. Corn

NEWARK, Del. — This may be a year for high populations of corn rootworms and white grubs, according to Joanne Whalen, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension integrated pest management specialist. High populations could mean economic damage to the corn crop.

"The potential for corn rootworm problems has been relatively low because of soil types, climatic conditions and crop rotations," Whalen said. "But we found relatively high levels of corn rootworm adults in 1990. This could result in an increased potential for problems in continuous corn planted in New Castle County and northern Kent County in 1991."

The specialist warns that overwintering levels of white grubs are higher in both single-cropped and double-cropped soybean rotations. Making an extra effort to scout for these pests can help keep the population under control.

In addition to white grubs and corn rootworm, Delaware farmers should keep an eye out for seed corn maggots, wireworms and cutworms. The population size of soil insects depends on a number of factors, including crop rotation, soil type, tillage, cover crops and spring weather conditions.

Following is a list of soil insects and conditions favorable for an outbreak.

- Seed corn maggot — cool and/or wet springs when germination is delayed; warm weather in late winter will yield early fly emergence and egg laying before tillage operations; early-planted

fields with poor drainage, high crop residues and/or where high rates of manure were applied.

- White grubs — old sod, pasture, hay or set-aside acreage; small-grain/soybean stubble or full-season soybean stubble fields with a heavy grass infestation the previous year (adult beetles are attracted to flowering grains and grasses).

- Wireworm — high organic matter, sod covers and heavy grass pressure in the previous season's crop.

- Cutworms — late-planted corn — black cutworm; early-planted corn, dingy and variegated cutworms; poorly drained soil, heavy broadleaf weed growth, soybean stubble from the previous season and reduced tillage.

- Corn rootworms — continuous corn planted on heavier soil types (hot, dry soils are abrasive to rootworm larvae), rotated fields planted on heavier soils where corn follows soybeans with a heavy infestation of volunteer corn or weeds, or after a weedy small-grain field.

"Being aware of the favorable conditions for pests can help you keep on top of a potential problem," Whalen said. "Scouting your fields for these pests helps you prevent economic losses."

To detect white grubs and wireworms, take soil samples about two to three weeks before planting, when soil temperature at 6 inches is 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Take the samples before the land is tilled.

At each site, sample a one-square-foot area of soil dug 6

inches deep. The quickest and most effective way to sort through the soil is with your hands. A minimum of 1 sample should be randomly taken for every 10 acres but no less than 5 samples per field. The treatment threshold for

grubs and/or wireworms is 1 per square foot of soil.

Soil sampling is not effective for detecting potential cutworm problems. A preventive treatment should be used only in high-risk fields. These fields should still be

scouted since a rescue treatment may be needed.

Scout fields on a weekly basis for small, irregular holes in leaves or cut plants. On 1- to 2- leaf stage corn, consider a treatment when 2

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Association Honors Baldwin

HAMMONTON, N.J. — The Pesticide Association of New Jersey recently awarded the Distinguished Service Award to Don Baldwin for his outstanding service to the agricultural chemical industry.

After serving in the medical department of the United States Navy and the U.S. National Institutes of Health, Baldwin entered George Washington University, where he received a bachelor of science degree in zoology. He then went on to the University of Maryland Graduate School, where he studied animal physiology and biochemistry.

Baldwin's career began at Dow Chemicals (now DowElanco) in 1956. In 1968 he gave the import business a try, calling it "fun but not too profitable." Baldwin went back to Dow in 1970, where he worked in marketing until he became involved in technical service and development in the Northeast in 1975. He continued to work at Dow until his retirement in December of 1990.

Some of his distinguished accomplishments include moving Dow from a corn, cotton, and soybean agenda to a broader market view, including horticultural crops.



Don Baldwin, left, receives the Pesticide Association of New Jersey's Distinguished Service Award from Henry Rupp, association president. Baldwin was recognized for his outstanding service to the agricultural chemical industry.

In addition to his accomplishments, Baldwin has been an active member of the northeast branch of

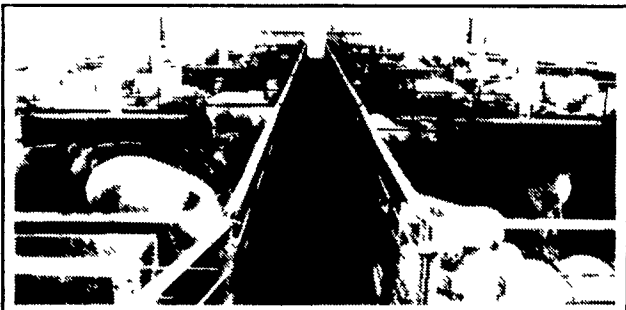
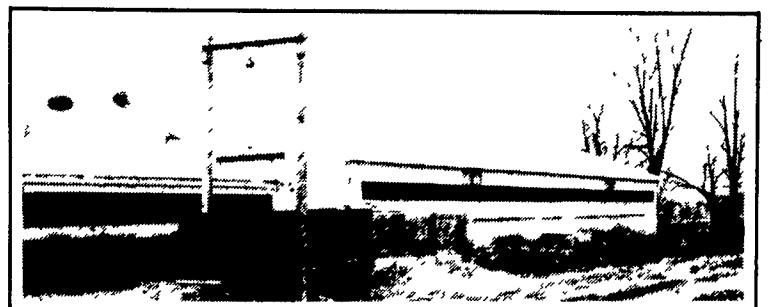
the Entomological Society of America and the Northeast Weed Science Society.

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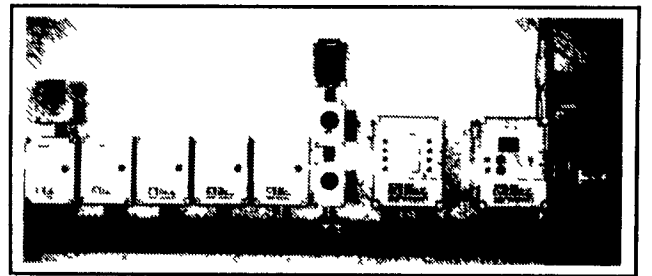
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