






Corn Insect Guide & Treatment

INSECT	PHOTO	WHEN TO TREAT
Armyworm		Early Season - Treat if 25% of the plants are damaged or if some plants are being killed. Late Season - Treat if feeding occurs above the ear level on 10 to 20% of the plants.
Fall Armyworm		Treat if 75% or more of the plants are damaged and if worms are still present. Worms over 1" have almost completed feeding and do not warrant treatment. Control of ear tip feeding is ineffective.
Corn Leaf Aphid		If 50% of the plants have more than 100 aphids per plant and plants are under drought stress, treatment may be justified. Control is also warranted if 3% or more of the plants have their tassels and upper leaves heavily infested, plants are under moisture stress, and the population is increasing.
Corn Flea Beetle		Treat when there are more than 5 flea beetles per plant and 50% of the plants show severe feeding damage (plants look silvery or whitish, to leaves begin to die).
Japanese Beetle		Silk Clipping - Treat if silks are cut off to less than 1/2" before 50% pollination.
Corn Rootworm Beetles		Silk clipping - Treat if silks are cut off to less than 1/2 inch before 50% pollination. Adult suppression to prevent egg laying - Treat when there are 0.75 beetles per plant and before 10% of the females have mature eggs. If beetles reinfest the field, treat again when there are 0.5 beetles per plant.
Black Cutworm		Treat when 3% of the plants are cut, worms are 1" long or less, and you find 2 or more worms per 100 plants at the 2 leaf stage or 4 or more worms per 100 plants at the 4 leaf stage or use worksheet.
Dingy Cutworm		3% of plants are cut, worms are 1" long or less, and you find 3 or more worms per 100 plants at the 2 leaf stage or 5 or more worms per 100 plants at the 4 leaf stage.
Sandhill Cutworm		There may be a problem in the early season in sandy soils, use the threshold for the black cutworm.
European Corn Borer 1st Generation		Treat when 50% of the whorl leaves show fresh feeding, live larvae are present, and the corn is 24" tall.. Treat before larvae bore into the stalk.

European Corn Borer 2nd Generation		Treat when there are 50 egg masses/100 plants. If cumulative counts (taken one week apart) exceed 1 egg mass for every two plants, apply a treatment or use worksheet.
Grasshoppers		Early Season - Treat field margins when more than 15 nymphs or 8 adults are found in per square yard in border areas. Late Season - Treatment may be justified if there are more than 7 adults per square yard. After pollen shed, treatment is justified for feeding on the leaves above ear level.
Maize Billbug		Control of billbugs is warranted only when the feeding damage of the adults is killing plants and reducing stands to critical levels. Plants with leaf feeding damage usually recover. There is no rescue treatment for larvae feeding within the corn stalks or in and around corn roots.
Stalk Borers		Early instar stalk borers can be controlled on corn before they enter the plant if more than 25% of the plants show injury. There is no rescue treatment for stalk borers once they enter the plant.
Two-Spotted Spider Mite		Control may be necessary when 15 to 20% of the leaf area is covered with mite colonies, moderate damage is noted, and hot, dry conditions are expected to continue. Rarely a problem in the Midwest.