

## Vegetable Crops IPM Update, Week Ending 6/19/13

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### Sweet Corn

**European corn borer (ECB)** adult catches continue to decline. The adult population has peaked, and feeding percentages have increased dramatically as eggs hatch. The highest catches continue to be in the central counties (see ECB Map). At present, ECB damage on untreated whorl and pre-tassel stage sweet corn in the central counties ranges to well above 50%. These numbers drop with treatment, although a single treatment is unlikely to be sufficient to manage ECB at this time of the season. Infestation percentages may increase over the next two weeks. Consider treating if 12% or more plants exhibit the characteristic “shot-hole” type feeding on leaves and/or droppings or ECB larvae in emerging tassels. **Remember to make a full-tassel application to control ECB larvae as they leave the tassel and travel down the stalk to re-enter the plant near the ear shank.** This last application is often critical to controlling ear infestations from ECB. Consider weekly applications through the silk stage unless local corn earworm catches dictate a tighter schedule. This will help prevent ear infestations resulting from eggs laid on or near the developing ear.

The highest nightly ECB catches for the previous week are as follows:

Farmingdale	3	Georgetown	2	Princeton	2
Allentown	2	Lawrenceville	2	Sergeantsville	2
Cinnaminson	2	Old Bridge	2	Denville	1
Crosswicks	2	Pennington	2	Matawan	1

Low level infestations of **fall armyworm (FAW)** are now occurring in coastal counties, particularly in central NJ. At present, infestation percentages do not exceed 6% in any scouted field, but this situation may worsen over the next several weeks. FAW caterpillars consume corn foliage, and produce large quantities of feces that pile up within the whorl. FAW larvae typically have light and dark brown bands, and the head capsule has a distinctive upside-down “Y” pattern on it. Unlike ECB, FAW will feed on corn plantings in the seedling stage, although whorl stage is usually the first to be affected. Consider treating if the number of plants infested with FAW either alone, or in combination with ECB exceeds 12%.

**Corn earworm moths (CEW)** have been captured with slightly higher frequency in blacklight traps over the past week. Numbers are generally low, but it is common for New Jersey to experience a brief burst of CEW moth activity during mid-June. There are numerous early sweet corn plantings now in silk which may be heavily impacted by these moths. At this time of the year, pheromone traps catch a disproportionately higher number of moths than the blacklights. Therefore, data from both trap networks are present in this update.

**Blacklight:** At this time, the most consistent **blacklight** catches are occurring in western Gloucester and Salem counties (see CEW Blacklight Map), and individual moth captures

have occurred northward into Warren County. In this blacklight-based map, the green area relates to a 3-day silk spray schedule and blue is a 4-5 day schedule.

**Pheromone:** CEW **pheromone** catches have changed little since last week. Because there are few pheromone traps deployed relative to blacklights, the CEW Pheromone map gives a much less defined image. However, given the high threat to these early plantings, it is recommended that for the present, growers in southern NJ defer to the more conservative schedule suggested by the pheromone map (see CEW Pheromone Map). Green areas on the **pheromone** map correspond to a 4-day spray schedule, while blue areas correspond to a 5-day schedule.

The highest nightly CEW **blacklight** catches for the previous week are as follows:

Pedricktown	2	Indian Mills	1
Woodstown	2	Matawan	1
Belvidere	1	New Egypt	1
Farmingdale	1		

The highest nightly CEW **pheromone** catches for the previous week are as follows:

Elm	17	Springdale	4
East Vineland	12	Eldora	2
Woodstown	9	Pedricktown	2
Beckett	4	Green Creek	1

Silking Spray Schedules\*:

South – 3-4 days

Central – 5-6 days

North – 6-7 days

\* Note: These are general recommendations. Local trap catches may indicate some variation in the frequency of insecticide applications to silking corn.

## **Cole Crops**

Heavy egg laying by **imported cabbage butterflies (ICW)**, and **diamondback moth (DBM)** continues. **Cabbage looper (CL)** larvae are now increasing significantly. Scout plantings weekly. Check 5 consecutive plants each in 10 random locations throughout the planting, paying particular attention to the innermost leaves where ICW often feed. Consider treating if caterpillars are found on 10% or more plants that are in the 0-9 true leaf stage. From 9-leaf to the early head stage (in broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage) infestations up to 20% may be tolerated. Once heads begin to form, a 5% threshold should be observed to protect the marketable portion of the plant. For leafy greens such as collards and kale, 10% plants infested is the threshold throughout.

## **Tomatoes**

**Bacterial leaf spot (BLS)** infections have appeared in more tomato plantings this week. Heavy rains (and in a few cases, hail) have created ideal conditions for appearance

and spread of these diseases. Be aware that the practices of pruning and tying tomato plants in the field can spread bacterial pathogens if they are present on any of the plants. It is advisable to use latex gloves while pruning, and discard them at the end of each row. Using new gloves with each new row will help limit spread in the field. Additionally, tying wands may be dipped in a bleach solution at row end as well for the same reason. Bacterial infections (speck, spot and canker) typically appear first as very dark lesions on leaf edges or interior tissue. Foliage of any age may be affected. Be sure to work in younger plantings before older, potentially infected ones if tying or other activities are necessary in multiple plantings. This will lower the risk of spreading the pathogen to younger plants. Various chemical applications may also be used to help suppress bacterial infections in both tomatoes and peppers (see the *2013 Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations*), and these should be considered even in the absence of symptoms.

### **Peppers**

Pepper plantings are now established in many areas. ECB egg-laying has occurred, and feeding is ongoing. Be sure to scout fields regularly for the presence of ECB egg masses. If two or more egg masses are found in a 50 plant (two leaves/plant) sample, consider treating even if no fruit are present. In the absence of fruit, ECB larvae will bore into the central stem, topping the plant. This will result in the loss of crown fruit on infested plants. Generally, where blacklight trap catches average one or more ECB per night (colored areas on the ECB map) and fruit are greater than ½” in diameter, insecticides are warranted. See the *2013 Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations* for materials useful in controlling ECB. **Pepper weevil:** For the time period of June 12 to 18, pheromone traps continue to trap pepper weevils primarily at non-farm sites although single weevils have been caught at 4 farm fields in Gloucester County and 1 farm in Salem County. Traps at a tomato field near Swedesboro have caught 29 weevils. There are no known field infestations at this time.

Pepper Weevil Counts for the period of June 12 and 18, 2013:

Woolwich	60
Hammonton	15
Elm Twp.	1
Pittsgrove Twp.	1

### **Brown Marmorated Stinkbug (BMSB)**

**BMSB** adult catches increased slightly in parts of the state over the past week. However, activity overall is quite low, based on blacklight catches. Individual BMSB have been caught throughout the state, but rarely more than one per site for the past week. BMSB has shown a preference for peppers in the past. Growers should pay close attention to activity from local traps to determine when to initiate field monitoring of this pest. As a result of the extremely low activity, no map will appear in this update.

The link for the Vegetable IPM Map Archive is:

<http://www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/IPM/Vegetable/Pest%20Maps/maparchive.htm>

This site contains all current pest maps as well as those from previous years, back to 1999.

### **Pumpkins and Winter Squash**

These crops are now emerging in many areas. It is important to monitor frequently for the presence of **striped and spotted cucumber beetles** at this time, particularly if the seed was not purchased pre-treated with an insecticide for cucumber beetle. Check 5 consecutive plants each in 10 random locations. Examine upper and lower surface of seed leaves for the presence of beetles. Consider treating if beetles are found at 5 or more sites. Heavy, but local infestations may be spot treated. Management of these pests will limit the loss of plants to the bacterial wilt disease that the beetles transmit.

This week, a sentinel plot containing susceptible and resistant cucumber varieties, as well as muskmelons, watermelons, acorn and butternut squash and pumpkins was established at the Snyder Research and Extension Farm in Hunterdon County. The purpose of this plot is to detect the presence of **downy mildew (DM)** in northern NJ. Any occurrence will be reported in this newsletter and will also generate an alert to all subscribers. For more information on the regional presence of DM as well as comprehensive, weekly forecasts, see the following website: <http://cdm.ipmpipe.org/>

### **Snap Beans**

**Potato leafhopper (PLH)** adults have appeared in snap beans in the northern counties this week, and should be considered present in all areas. So far, only adults have been present. This pest is a particular problem because it often goes unnoticed until foliar distortion and burn occurs. Once this damage appears, yields have already been compromised. It is critical that beans be monitored regularly for the presence of PLH. If a sweep net is available, consider treating if more than 100 nymphs and adults are present in 20 sweeps of pre-bloom stage plants. This threshold increases to 250 during bloom and to 500 per 20 sweeps during pod development. If no sweep net is available, check plants in 10 random field locations and consider treating if adults and nymphs are found throughout. Adults are pale green, and will fly out from foliage when disturbed and immediately fly back into the plant canopy. Nymphs are wingless and bright green and may be found on the underside of leaves.