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New Publication: SWEET CORN Pest Identification and Management Pocket Guide

This new pocket is a quick, colorful, and handy reference for sweet corn growers, extension educators, crop consultants, and industry field representatives who work in the North Central Region and Ontario, Canada.

The information presented here is brief and cannot include every possible pest or management option in fresh market or processing sweet corn production in these areas. So, this guide focuses on the most critical pests and management options. This 103 page pocket guide contains color pictures, basic descriptions, and management tips of economically important weeds, diseases, pest insects, and vertebrates. It also includes sections that describe beneficial insects, common types of herbicide injury, and general horticultural practices.

Some Sample Pages:
HOW TO GET YOUR SWEET CORN POCKET GUIDE

1. Take the Sweet Corn Quiz: Be one of the first 10 Ohio growers to correctly identify five common sweet corn pests and problems (see Sweet Corn Quiz at the end of this newsletter or..).
2. Be one of the first 50 Ohio growers to complete the sweet corn IPM survey or...
3. Purchase a copy for $15.00 from Purdue (bulletin number to order ID-405, phone (888)-EXT_INFO or www.extension.purdue.edu/store)
Regional sweet corn pest management survey  Jim Jasinski

Ohio State University Extension and the Great Lakes Vegetable Working Group (GLVWG) want to know what YOU think about pest management in sweet corn! The GLVWG is composed of nearly 150 university research and extension specialists who work in vegetable production in IL, IN, KY, MI, MN, NY, OH, Ontario, Canada, PA, and WI. This group is looking to understand the adoption patterns of pest management tactics of sweet corn growers over the entire region. By completing this survey, you will help OSUE and the working group identify future research and educational priorities in sweet corn production in Ohio and throughout the region.

Although the survey is aimed primarily at fresh market growers who are 18 or older, processing growers are also encouraged to take it, though a few questions may not seem appropriate for that production system.

The survey is designed to be completed in about 15 minutes and is divided into 8 short sections, including educational, record keeping, and field oriented activities. There are no questions about annual sales, profitability, or other economic data. There is an opportunity after each section for input if you have comments or additional information to add.

Please know that this survey is voluntary and that any information given will be used to guide future IPM research and Extension program delivery. Your name, home address, or e-mail will not be asked for in this survey. Every effort will be made to protect your responses and your confidentiality. Any public reports of study findings will be based on grouped data and will not reveal individual responses. Results of this study may be used for publications, presentations, or shared with grower groups, industry, or agri–business.

The first 50 Ohio growers who complete the online survey will receive a free copy of the just released Sweet Corn Pest Identification and Management pocket guide, a $15 value. This guide contains over 100 color pages of insect, weed, disease, and herbicide injury images plus horticultural guidelines, vertebrate control, and beneficial insect identification. There is a code at the end of the survey that you will need to qualify for the free pocket guide. Without the code, you will not be eligible for a pocket guide.

To get your pocket guide, complete the online survey and write down the code on the last screen. Contact Sheila Callicoat at Ohio State University Extension (937–484–1526) and give her the code displayed at the end of the survey. If you are one of the first 50 Ohio growers to contact her, she will take your mailing address information and send you the pocket guide. This offer is only for Ohio growers at this time. Other states may have similar exchange programs set up; contact your state IPM program coordinator for more details.

Here is the link to the Sweet Corn Pest Management Survey:
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=NeTTF3Q19u2AAYGy3K5Xdw_3d_3d

We expect to have the results of this survey summarized by the fall of 2009, and posted on the Great Lakes Vegetable Working Group website at http://glvwg.ag.ohio–state.edu/. If you would like more information about the survey, please contact Jim Jasinski, OSU Extension, IPM Program, 937–484–1526 or Jasinski.4@osu.edu.

THE SWEET CORN QUIZ

Test your knowledge of sweet corn.
If your one of the first 10 Ohio growers to correctly identify all five of the sweet corn problems below, then I will send you a free copy of the pocket guide (see Quiz directions). Growers are only eligible for one free pocket guide per operation.
If you can’t, then you should have this publication!

1. Identify this common weed seedling? ______________

2. What herbicide causes this problem? ______________

3. This insect pest requires carefully timed control measures. What is it?

Correctly identify these 5 pest problems found in sweet corn.

Email your answers to Bob Precheur:
precheur.1@osu.edu

The first 10 Ohio growers with all 5 correct answers will receive a free Sweet Corn Pocket Guide from Bob Precheur. Be sure to provide your name and mailing address.

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Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) incentives for specialty crop growers

Jim Jasinski, OSU Extension, IPM Program

Specialty crop growers who are interested in pest management now have another reason to consider adopting practices that are potentially environmentally and economically beneficial, namely monetary incentives to adopt integrated pest management practices. At a recent meeting between the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Ohio State University (OSU) Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program, and OSU fruit and vegetable specialists, four individual scenarios were developed to help growers qualify for funding through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in 2009. EQIP is a competitive program where growers are ranked by the protection given to key resources on their operation such as soil, water, air, plants, and animals. The four scenarios developed for specialty crop growers are general vegetable IPM (cabbage, carrots, lettuce, peppers, pickles, potatoes, pumpkins, squash, radishes, snap beans, and tomatoes), sweet corn IPM, tree fruit IPM (apples, pears, plums, peaches, cherries), and strawberry IPM. Growers who currently grow any of the above listed crops are eligible to apply. EQIP
contracts are typically awarded for three years, and will be paid annually as a per acre incentive for adopting pest management practices described by that particular IPM scenario, such as scouting, insect, weed, and disease monitoring, etc. The incentive rates for each of the four scenarios are currently being finalized, but in 2008 Michigan EQIP contracts for vegetable IPM were established at $30 per acre. Diverse grower operations may qualify for two or more scenarios in one contract. So what does this mean to specialty crop growers? For growers who already do a fair amount of pest management on their farm operation, it does not necessarily mean you will receive incentive payments to continue those practices. In fact, the EQIP program is designed primarily to protect resources (soil, water, air, plants, animals) and is aimed at growers at the lower end of the pest management adoption scale. To see if your farm operation could benefit from EQIP, there are two initial steps to be taken. Step one, take the appropriate OSU IPM self assessment tool online (http://ipm.osu.edu/pageview.asp?id=10) and establish your benchmark IPM score for the appropriate crop. Then consider if you can increase your score by at least 10% every year of the contract by adopting additional practices, with the third year at 60% or more of practice adoption. Next, contact your local NRCS District Conservationist (http://www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/directory/directories.html#These) and set an appointment to have your operation reviewed for resource concerns. Based on your benchmark IPM score and the resource concerns outlined by your District Conservationist, you should be able to determine how suitable your operation is for a formal EQIP application.

NRCS has put together a step-by-step guide on how to apply for conservation programs targeted at growers who have not participated in conservation programs before at: http://www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/program_application/applying_for_programs.html

For more information about EQIP in general, please visit http://www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/eqip2008.html

Ohio Produce Growers & Marketers Association Congress (OPGMA)
Jan 12 ◆ 14, 2009
The Nia Center at the Kalahari Resort
Sandusky, OH

REGISTRATION INFORMATION
Register via online, fax, or mail
For More detailed information, call 614-487-1117
Fax: ◆ 614-487-1216

Online: www.opgma.org

Mail: ◆ OPGMA
2130 Stella Ct
Columbus, OH 43215
A 50 percent refund will be given for cancellations made by January 5. No refunds will be offered for cancellations after this date.

opgma@ofa.org ◆ www.opgma.org