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Corn earworm alert! 8/6/12 C. Welty

Corn earworm alert! There was a surge in the number of moths caught in pheromone traps at some sites over the past weekend (3–6 August) which indicates that there will be an increase in the number of eggs hatching into corn earworm larvae that will rapidly invade developing ears of sweet corn within the next few days. One trap in Columbus had 75 moths, another had 12 moths over 3 nights. Last week the number of moths caught ranged from zero in Wayne, Holmes, Summit, and Medina Counties, to 1–7 in Sandusky Co., to 15 in Ottawa Co., to 0 to 18 in Clark Co.

Mid- to late-August is when we usually see a moderate to large increase in corn earworm, which usually results wormy corn. Traps should be checked every 2 to 3 days at this time of year. When weather is hot (highs >80F) and corn earworm moths are active, silking sweet corn needs to be sprayed frequently to prevent corn earworm from infesting the tips of ears. When traps catch more than 90 moths per week, a 2-day spray schedule is recommended. When traps catch 7 to 90 moths per week, a 3-day spray schedule is recommended. When traps catch 3.5 to 7 moths per week, a 4-day spray schedule is recommended. When traps catch 1.4 to 3.5 moths per week, a 5-day spray schedule is recommended.

The spray interval is a critical decision for good control of worms. A second decision is choice of insecticide product. Generally the pyrethroids (Asana, Pounce, Warrior, Baythroid, Mustang, Capture, Brigade) are not working well against corn earworm due to the recent development of resistance. Alternative products are Coragen, Voliam Xpress, and Radiant. Keep in mind that Coragen provides good worm control but does not kill beetles such as sap beetles or corn rootworm beetles or Japanese beetles.

Southern Ohio Vegetable Crop Update 8/3/12 Brad Bergesford

Harvest of all vegetable crops is in full swing with growers reporting good yields and quality on some crops in some areas and growers reporting almost total losses on some crops in other areas. Supplies of zucchini, yellow squash, half runners, beans and sweet corn are tight with wholesale prices running above average at wholesale

produce auctions. This light supply is attributed to the wet early and mid May which prevented field planting during this time period. Blotchy ripe and yellow shoulder disorders are showing up in tomatoes it is suspected that the high temperatures 90's to low 100's since Memorial Day weekend and still lingering this week, drought conditions along with Potassium deficiencies in the plant have contributed to these disorders. Planting of cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage and Brussels sprouts continues this week. The last plantings of sweet corn and beans went in the ground this week.

Disease and insect pressures remain light but with recent and more frequent showers and rainfall this can quickly change. Irrigation continues, with many growers irrigating almost weekly since mid-April, however the 2 inch plus rainfall and light showers the past 2 weeks has helped with crop growth and development. There appears to be some lighter fruit set on pepper, squash and pumpkin (Editor's note: remember during periods of high temperature the ratio of male to female flowers can greatly increase with few female flowers seen or set. As temperatures decline, the ratio should normalize. Some pumpkin varieties are more susceptible to heat or high temperature and respond with less than normal fruit set). which is being attributed to the high temperatures, some sterile pollen issues and insufficient pollination during the past 3 weeks, with the recent cooler nights in the mid to high 60's it seems that fruit set has increased. Strawberry runner tips are being planted this week for this fall's plasticulture strawberry plantings, from the preliminary tip numbers coming to Ohio from Canadian suppliers, it appears that acreage of plasticulture strawberry will be increasing slightly in Ohio again this season. Harvest of research trials and on farm observation trials of summer bearing strawberries has slowed dramatically with the high temperatures the past 8 weeks, it is hoped that fruit set will resume as our temperatures begin to moderate. Weed control has been a constant battle since receiving rains with much hand hoeing, pulling, cultivation and herbicide applications being made. Harvest of high tunnel tomatoes continues although endwalls as well as roll up sides have been removed and rolled up as well as shade cloth applied in an attempt to keep the tunnels cool under the high temperatures.