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1. Insect Update

Insect Update! 8/20/2012 by C. Welty

Corn earworm has been abundant since August 6 at many sites in Ohio, as measured by catch of moths in pheromone traps. In the past week, trap catch increased to very high levels at some sites. We consider the corn earworm population to be moderate if there are 6 to 90 moths per trap per week, and high if there are more than 90 moths per trap per week. Last weeks catches were 440 and 144 in 2 traps in Franklin County, 220 and 39 in 2 traps in Clark County, 134 and 41 in 2 traps in Sandusky County, 84 in Ottawa County, 39 in Medina County, 27 and 7 in 2 traps in Meigs County, and 0 in Holmes, Wayne, and Summit Counties. Sweet corn growers can prevent damage from corn earworm by spraying silking corn on a 3-day spray schedule. Trap counts are posted on a webpage:

http://bugs.osu.edu/welty/veg_traps1/2012_data/CEW2012.htm

European corn borer shows continued moderate activity at both Fremont and Columbus, as estimated by moth catch in blacklight and pheromone traps. At this time of year, we expect to see a trend of lower moth catch as the second generation winds down, followed by an increase in moth catch if a third generation develops. At this point we do not see evidence of a third generation starting up. Trap catches are posted on the internet for blacklight:

http://bugs.osu.edu/welty/veg_traps1/2012_data/ECBblacklight2012.htm

and pheromone traps:

http://bugs.osu.edu/welty/veg_traps1/2012_data/ECBTrap2012.htm

Western bean cutworm: We have been monitoring this new species at several locations in Ohio. The adults (moths) had peak activity in mid-July, which has tapered off to nearly zero. Despite consistent moth catch at several sites, we had no reports of infestations of any larvae until last week, when they were found in 5% of plants in one sweet corn field in Medina County. The scouts found over 2 late-instar larvae per ear in non-BT corn that was within one week of harvest.

Most vegetable pests are active and abundant in all crops. Bean leaf beetle has been heavy on snap beans. The spotted cucumber beetle has been abundant, not only on vine crops but on snap beans and even on tomatoes and peppers. Squash vine borer is showing an unusual second generation. The brown marmorated stink bug is being

found in apples and soybeans in Columbus, but no reports of it in vegetable crops. Any growers who find this new stink bugs in crops are encouraged to alert us.