

BLACK CUTWORM QUICK FACTS

IMPACT ON YOUR CROP

- One black cutworm larvae can clip up to 4 plants in it's lifetime.
- Fields that are more susceptible to black cutworm damage include fields that are: weedy, poorly drained or low lying, late or minimally tilled, planted late, or have a history of black cutworm.

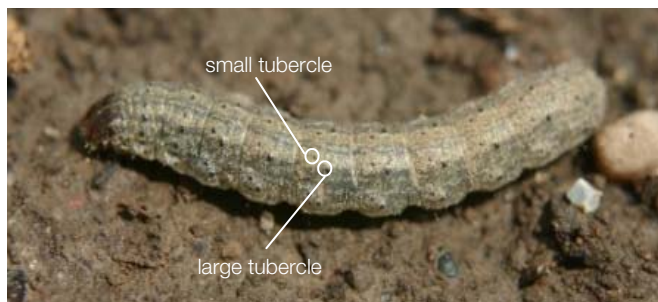
Black cutworms have the potential to cause serious damage to corn; however, damage is often sporadic and below economic thresholds.

TIPS TO MANAGE

- Maintain a clean seed bed 2-3 weeks prior to corn emergence to reduce potential hosts for black cutworm.
- Monitor local black cutworm flights and scout fields prior to estimated cutting date.
- A rescue insecticide may be necessary if 2-3% of corn plants are damaged, and larvae are smaller than 3/4 of an inch, or if 5% of plants are damaged and larvae are larger than 3/4 of an inch.

WHAT TO SCOUT

- Black cutworm larvae vary in color from light grey to black.
- Each body segment contains 4 tubercles: 2 small and 2 large.



- Black cutworm are nocturnal and may be found by removing soil around damaged plants.
- Plants cut below the soil may be partially pulled under the soil and appear as if angled out of the surface.
- Damage may also include tunneling and leaf feeding.
- Areas with suspected damage should be noted and revisited to assess future damage.



Black cutworm larva tunneling into a corn plant.

For additional resources on this topic, contact your local seed representative or visit your seed brand website.

Sources:

Purdue University Field Crops IPM. 2009. Black cutworm. *Agrotis ipsilon* Hufnagel. Purdue University. <http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/>. Crop Science Extension and Outreach. Black cutworm. University of Illinois. <http://extension.cropsi.illinois.edu/>. University of Minnesota Extension. 2014. 2014 University of Minnesota cooperative black cutworm trapping network. University of Minnesota. Report #5. <http://swroc.cfans.umn.edu/>. Wright, R.J., Hunt, T.E., and Jarvi, K.J. 2007. Corn cutworms. University of Nebraska-Lincoln. G07-1153. <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/>. Web sources verified 02/03/15

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