

# Corn Rootworm Pest ID

A3631



Root-feeding damage



Western adult beetle



Northern adult beetle

Adult corn rootworm beetles emerge from the soil in early to mid July. They mate and lay eggs during August and early September. The eggs overwinter and hatch in early June the following year. There is only one generation of corn rootworms per year.

First year corn fields rarely experience damage by corn rootworm larvae. Continuous corn fields have the greatest risk of damage from rootworm larvae, as adults almost always lay eggs in corn fields.

Scouting fields during the egg-laying period (August to early September) is the best way to decide if a soil insecticide treatment will be a wise investment or an unnecessary expense.

Less than **38**



when scouting **50**



could mean



*Scout corn during August and early September to decide if a soil insecticide treatment is necessary.*

Count the number of beetles on five non-consecutive plants in one area of a field. Pick plants that are not right next to each other as beetles will fly when disturbed. Beetles can be found on the tassel, top and bottom of leaves and in the silk. When approaching corn plants, trap any beetles hiding in the silk by firmly grabbing the silk end of the ear in one hand while counting beetles on the rest of the plant. Then slowly open your hand and tease the silk apart to reveal any beetles hiding in the top 2 inches of the cob. Continue scouting in nine other random areas of the field so that you examine a total of 50 plants. Repeat this scouting procedure at 7-10 day intervals one or two more times during the egg-laying period.

If the field average is **greater than  $\frac{3}{4}$  beetle per plant (38 beetles per 50 plants) on any scouting trip**, you will need to treat with an insecticide the following year or rotate the field out of corn.

For more information:



Contact your local Extension office or the UW Integrated Pest Management program at (608)265-2660.