

Insects and Disease in 2007

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Black Cutworm

Black cutworms are an occasional pest of seedling corn that can cause significant damage. A pheromone trap was placed at the research farm in 2007. The peak flight of 26 moths occurred on May 4. The moth flights are used to anticipate when cutting from black cutworms would begin and therefore predict when scouting should begin. Based on this monitoring data and data from other locations in west-central Iowa, the scouting date was May 18.

Western Bean Cutworm

Western bean cutworm has become an annual problem. It is a late-season pest that can cause tremendous damage to an ear of corn. Monitoring moth flights of this pest is crucial. Scouting should begin with the first moth flight and continue just past the peak moth flight to determine if an insecticide is needed. In 2007 a

peak flight of 73 moths was detected on July 11 and the first moth flight was recorded on July 2.

Soybean Aphids

Soybean aphids have become a bi-annual pest to soybean growers across Iowa. In 2007, aphids were once again a major pest but had limited impact in western west-central Iowa. Soybean aphids first appeared at the research farm on July 24 and peaked with 73 aphids per plant on August 6.

Soybean Diseases

In 2007, the research farm was a location for a statewide soybean disease survey. The purpose of the survey was to determine which diseases are commonly occurring across the state. Samples were taken on June 6, July 9, July 30, and September 6. In June, brown spot was identified. In July, bacterial blight and rhizoctonia were identified, and in September, rhizoctonia was identified. All diseases were present at a low incidence level.

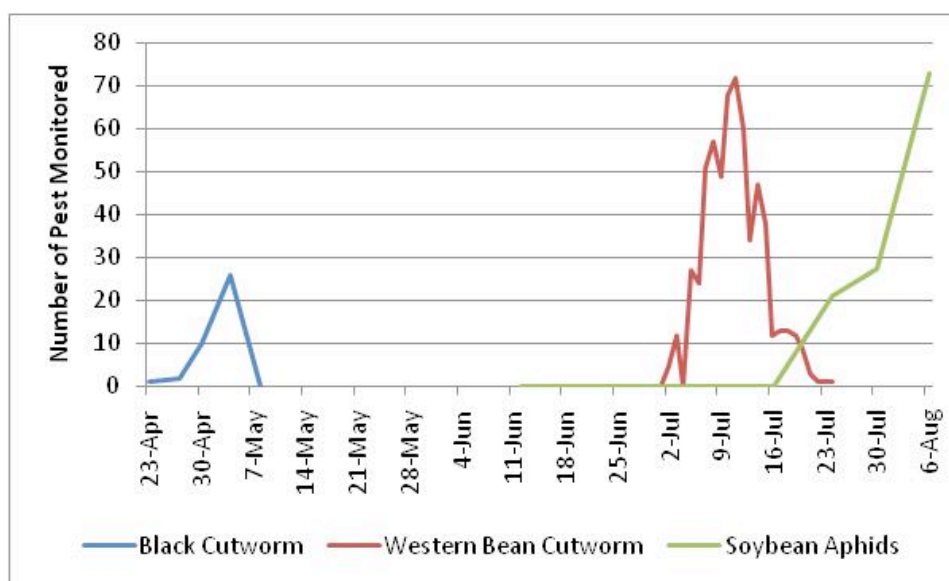


Figure 1. Number of black cutworms, western bean cutworms and soybean aphids monitored at the Western Research and Demonstration Farm in 2007.