

## Crop Insects and Disease in 2008

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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 2008. The peak flight of seven moths occurred on May 8. 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 20. This scouting date was 2 days later than 2007.

### Western Bean Cutworm

Western bean cutworm is a late-season pest that can cause major damage to corn ears. 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 2008 the first peak flight occurred on July 23 with 46 moths followed by a second peak

of 46 moths on July 28. The first moth flight was recorded on July 2.

### Soybean Aphids

Soybean aphids have traditionally been a bi-annual pest to soybean growers across Iowa. However in 2008, aphids were once again a major pest causing anxiety to all. In 2008, unlike 2007 and previous years, aphids migrated from northwest Iowa to west central and central Iowa. Approximately 80 to 90% of the soybean acres in west central Iowa were sprayed with insecticides.

### Soybean Diseases

In 2008, the research farm was a location for a soybean rust sentinel plot. The purpose of the statewide sentinel plot system is to collect soybean leaves throughout the growing season to identify soybean rust while still at a lower incidence level. All samples from the sentinel plot system reported negative diagnosis for soybean rust in 2008. Furthermore, soybean rust was not identified in Iowa during the growing season.

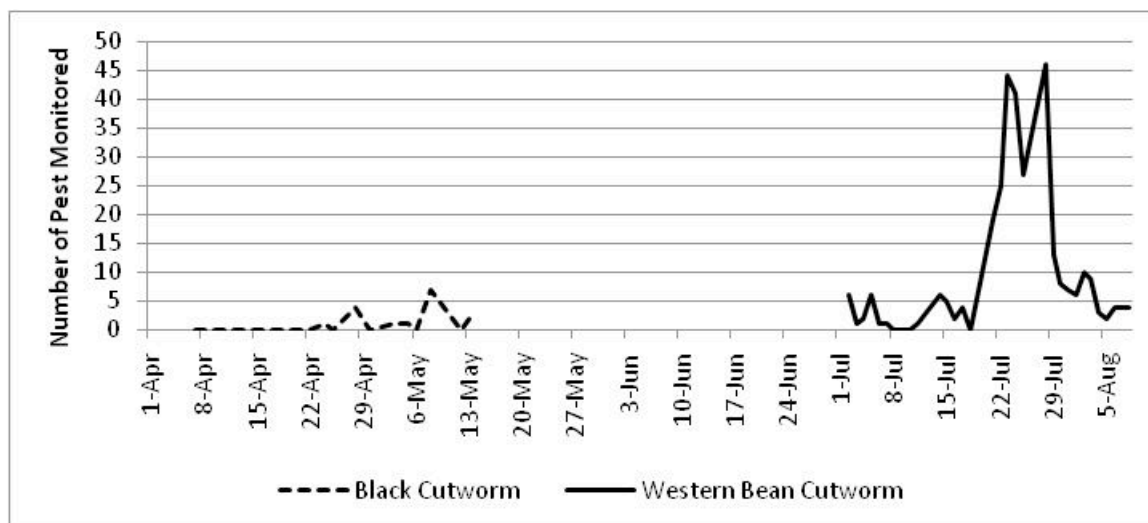


Figure 1. Number of black cutworms and western bean cutworms monitored at the Western Research and Demonstration Farm in 2008.