OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

POTATO UPDATE

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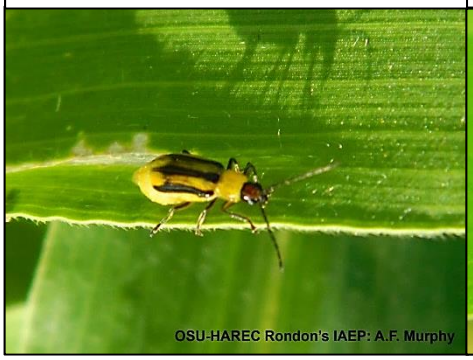
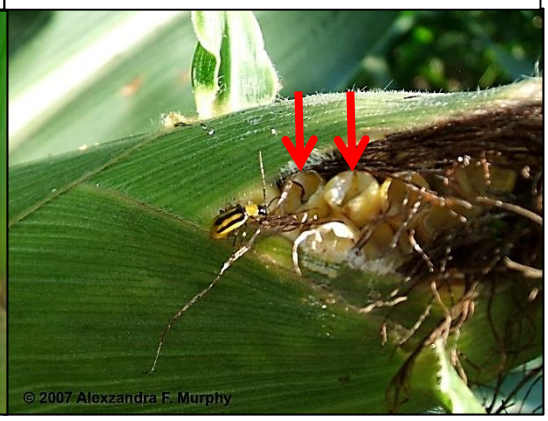
Conflicts in Corn: Worms or beetles?

Recently, western corn rootworm beetles have been noted in several corn fields in the region. These western corn rootworm beetles should not be confused with a related species, the cereal leaf beetle, which has also been rather common this season.

Western corn rootworm - Female	Western corn rootworm - Male	Cereal Leaf Beetle
		
OSU-HAREC Rondon's IAEP: A.F. Murphy	OSU-HAREC Rondon's IAEP: A.F. Murphy	Kansas Department of Agriculture Archive, Bugwood.org

While western corn rootworm can be a major pest of corn, the adult beetles rarely require insecticide applications. The adult beetles cause minor damage to corn by feeding on the silks (called silk-clipping), feeding on the tender kernels at the tip of the ear, or feeding on the leaves (often described as resembling a 'window pane'). There must be an army of rootworm beetles in the corn to do any significant damage.

If you see a few beetles, or these kinds of damage in a rotated (first-year) corn field, don't worry!

Window-pane type feeding damage	Silk-clipping	Feeding on Kernels
		
OSU-HAREC Rondon's IAEP: A.F. Murphy	© 2007 Alexzandra F. Murphy	© 2007 Alexzandra F. Murphy

Crop rotation is the most effective control option, so rootworms should not be a problem in first-year corn. However, the adult beetles may migrate from neighboring fields and enter first-year corn fields in search of a snack. They tend to move into younger corn fields (with silks or tassels) as the season progresses. The good news is that they may move out of a first-year field as quickly as they moved in.

Do I need to consider monitoring and management options?

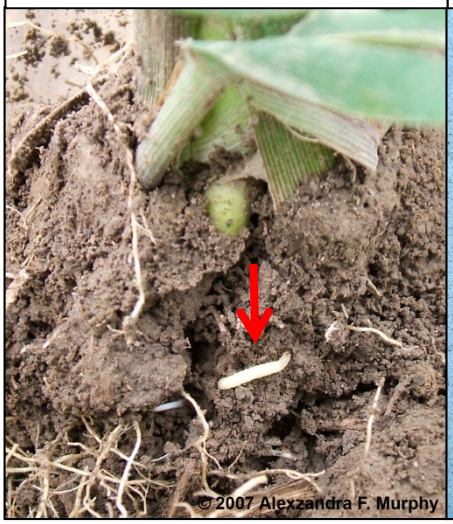
NO	YES
• Rotated corn field (i.e., first-year corn) **AND** • Few to moderate numbers of beetles **AND** • Minor damage, minimal feeding	• Second-year (or more) corn field **OR** • Extremely high numbers of beetles **AND** • Severe damage is apparent on ears, silks or roots of many plants

What about the 'worm'?

It is the 'worm' or larva of this insect that is of the most concern. As the name suggests, the rootworm feeds on the roots, reducing yields and/or causing lodging of the plant. Extreme root damage has not been seen in our area, like picture on the far right. However, if you are seeing lodging or many beetles in a second-year corn field, it may be time to consider management options for next year. Little can be done about the numbers now, as insecticide applications for the adults are not usually recommended or effective. If you have questions about corn rootworm, please feel free to contact your extension agent……

Alex Murphy and Silvia Rondon

Rootworm larvae in corn roots



Extreme root damage

Plant Pathology Lab Update

This week 866 psyllids were submitted for Zebra Chip (Lso) testing with no positives detected. Incidence in psyllids continues to be low but continue to monitor plantings to keep this insect from colonizing fields. The lab received additional potato samples with "purple top" symptoms this week. Only the BLTVA phytoplasm has been detected in these plants. If you have questions about testing services, please call the Plant Pathology Lab at 541-567-2240. *Robert Cating and Phil Hamm*

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Insect Trap Report

Area Pest Alert, Umatilla & Morrow Co.

Traps are collected on Thursdays.

TRAP	PTW	BLH	OLH	GPA	PA	OA
1	3	0	1	0	0	0
2	4	0	12	0	2	0
3	4	2	27	0	1	4
4	5	0	2	0	0	2
5	4	3	9	0	0	0
6	1	9	13	0	1	1
7	11	0	3	1	0	0
8	3	1	4	0	0	4
9	0	0	1	0	0	1
10	2	0	1	1	0	2
11	7	0	0	0	0	2
12	3	0	0	0	0	0
13	105	0	4	1	0	0
14	19	0	0	1	0	0
15	2	1	2	1	0	0
16	5	0	7	0	0	0
17	12	1	0	1	0	2
18	13	0	0	0	0	0
19	11	0	0	0	0	0
20	60	0	0	1	0	0
21	30	0	0	0	0	0
22	23	0	0	1	0	0
23	28	0	1	0	0	0
24	23	1	0	0	0	0
25	58	0	2	0	0	1
26	3	0	1	0	0	0
27	15	2	1	0	0	5
28	10	1	6	0	0	0
29	6	0	2	0	0	0
30	3	0	1	0	1	1
31	1	3	5	0	0	0
32	1	1	0	0	0	0
33	2	13	0	0	0	2
34	2	3	1	0	0	1
35A	19	4	0	0	0	0
35B	2	1	1	0	0	0
36A	0	4	0	0	0	0
36B	0	2	2	0	0	0

PTW: Potato Tuberworms
BLH: Beet Leafhoppers
OLH: Other Leafhoppers
GPA: Green Peach Aphids
PA: Potato Aphids
OA: Other Aphids

From yellow Alphascents sticky cards in 3 feet, one per field.

TRAP	PP	OP
1	6	1
2	0	2
3	0	1
4	0	2
5	1	0
6	0	0
7	2	0
8	1	0
9	0	0
10	1	1
11	0	0
12	0	0
13	0	0
14	0	0
15	0	3
16	0	2
17	-	-
18	-	-
19	-	-
20	0	3
21	1	0
22	0	0
23	2	1
24	0	1
25	0	0
26	-	-
27	-	-
28	0	0
29	0	0
30	0	0
31	0	0
32	0	2
33	0	1
34	0	0
35A	1	0
35B	1	0
36A	1	1
36B	0	0

PP: Potato Psyllids
OP: Other Psyllids