

Insect Control Recommendations

EXTENSION DIVISION
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University,

ARMYWORMS AS A PEST OF NO-TILL CORN

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What They Are

The armyworm is primarily a pest of grasses, small grain, and corn. It is the larval stage, or caterpillar, of a moth. The moth is heavy bodied, light brown and has a conspicuous white or silvery spot about the size of a pinhead on each front wing.

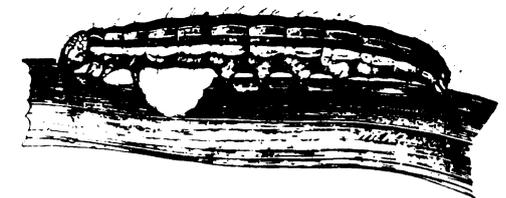
Armyworms grow to 1½ to 2 inches long and vary in color from a light gray-green to a dark gray-brown. Along the outer side of each leg, near the middle part of the body, is a dark band. On the body is a series of longitudinal stripes arranged as follows:

1. A thin, white, broken line down the middle of the back.
2. A wide, dark, mottled stripe halfway down the side.
3. A pale orange stripe with white border.
4. Next, a brownish mottled stripe.
5. Slightly above the legs, another pale orange stripe with white border.

How They Live

This insect can overwinter in Virginia, and infestations may result in part from moth flights from the south. The moths are strong fliers. If weather, egg laying, and food conditions become favorable, outbreaks will result.

Moths lay eggs in rows on leaves of grasses and small grain. In 7-10 days, the eggs hatch into small worms. When the small grain is killed or rendered unpalatable by herbicides, the worms migrate to the newly planted corn seedlings.



Armyworm feeding on corn

Feeding and moving occur mostly at night or on cloudy days. During daylight, armyworms usually hide under vegetation, in cracks, or by burrowing into loose soil. As the worms grow, their appetite increases. Damage to no-till corn in Virginia usually occurs between May 27 and June 25. Infestations are often unnoticed until worms are nearly full grown and almost ready to stop feeding, emphasizing the need to inspect young no-till corn daily. Full-grown worms burrow into the soil and pupate. About 2 weeks later, moths emerge from the pupal cases in the soil to mate and lay eggs for the next generation.

How to Control Them

IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO CONTROL ARMYWORMS WHILE THEY ARE SMALL AND BEFORE EXTENSIVE DAMAGE IS DONE.

An average of one or more worms per row foot in no-till corn will justify chemical control.

ARMYWORM CONTROL ON NO-TILL CORN

Insecticide and Formulation	Rate Per Acre	Remarks and Precautions	Days Between Last Application and Harvest	Insecticide Residue Tolerance in Parts Per Million
Carbaryl (Sevin)	Apply 2 lb. of 50% WP or 1½ lb. of 80% WP per acre. 1/	Apply all spray materials. Broadcast at the rate of 25-30 gal. at 40-60 psi.	0 days	100.0 forage 5.0 corn kernels and cob
Methyl parathion or Ethyl parathion	Apply ½ pt. of 4 lb. per gal. EC or ¼ pt. of 8 lb. per gal. EC	These are extremely poisonous. If you become ill while using this insecticide, call a physician immediately. Workers entering field within 48 hr. should wear protective cloths.	12 days (harvest or cutting for forage) for corn	1.0 corn and corn forage
Trichlorfon (Dylox) 80% WP	Apply 10 to 20 oz.	Apply when 3 to 12 in. high. Spray lower portions of corn plant and soil around base.	Do not use more than 3 applications per season.	0.1 corn kernels plus cob (husk removed) 30.0 forage and fodder
Malathion 57% EC	Apply 1½ to 2 pt.	This should be the safest chemical to use in aerial applicators near residential areas.	5 days	8.0 forage 2.0 kernels and cob (husk removed)
Carbofuran (Furadan 10G)	Apply 10 lb. of 10G.	Apply in front of press wheel at planting time.	0 days	0.1 grain 5.0 fodder and forage

1/ Application of carbaryl to the tassel region of corn during the pollen shedding period will seriously reduce bee populations.

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KEYS TO PROPER USE OF PESTICIDES

1. Read the label on each pesticide container before each use. Follow instructions to the letter; heed all cautions and warnings, and note precautions about residues.
2. Keep pesticides in the containers in which you bought them. Put them where children or animals cannot get to them, preferably under lock and away from food, feed, seed, or other material that may become harmful if contaminated.
3. Dispose of empty containers in the manner specified on the label.

SEE YOUR DOCTOR IF SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS OCCUR DURING OR AFTER USE OF PESTICIDES.

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