

WILL YOU CRY (1F) OVER WESTERN BEAN CUTWORM?

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Abstract

Western bean cutworm, a native pest originally found in the western US, has become an increasingly common pest of corn in the North Central Region as its range spreads eastward. The Bt toxin Cry1F has been used to help manage this pest. However, there is increasing evidence that this toxin is no longer effective against western bean cutworm in many parts of its range. This talk summarizes the identification, biology, and damage from this pest, and discusses management including Bt and alternate management approaches. Scouting and insecticide are effective against western bean cutworm, but careful monitoring is necessary to get timing right.

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