

Crops Bulletin

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Black cutworm. There was somewhat of a major black cutworm flight on April 28-30. Therefore, we would expect black cutworm larvae to be large enough to damage corn on about May 20-22. Weather conditions may affect the exact date of predicted cutworm cutting, but make plans now to check fields in that time frame.

Check corn stands. Uniform stands and uniform emergence are often mentioned as one of the essential components of high corn yields. How is corn yield affected by uneven emergence of the corn? Information from Lori Abendroth and Roger Elmore (ISU Agronomists) indicates that if 17% of the corn plants emerge 6 days after the other plants – corn yield will be reduced by about 5%. Yields will be reduced by 17% if emergence of half the plants is delayed by 14 days. See <http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/corn/production/management/early/heights.html> for more info.

Seed treatments, cutworms and grubs. Check corn fields for cutworm damage – even if you have used Poncho or Cruiser. Research conducted by Marlin Rice shows that only the high rate Poncho (1250 rate) controlled 4th instar black cutworm in his studies. However, he did get good control of white grubs with both the high and low rates of Cruiser and Poncho. For more info see <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/2006/4-24/whitegrubs.html>

Biennial thistles. Musk thistles, bull thistles and plumeless thistles respond best to herbicide if they are in the rosette stage. They are much more difficult to control after they develop a seed stalk. Milestone and Tordon 22K (and combinations including these) will control these biennial thistles. See http://cropwatch.unl.edu/archives/2009/crop9/musk_thistle.htm for more info.

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