

# Partnership Perk

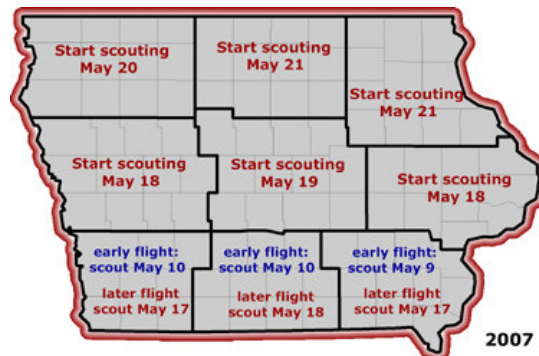


May 7, 2007

## Black cutworm scouting advisory

Black cutworm is an occasional and sporadic pest of corn from emergence to V4. Black cutworm moths fly north from overwintering areas on the gulf coast, carried along with low level jets associated with spring storms. ISU has a pheromone trap network that is used to determine when and where moths have arrived and egg laying is possible. Black cutworms need about 300 base-50 growing degrees to grow from egg laying to cutting size, so we can project when larvae are potentially cutting in an area and scouting is appropriate.

From spring moth pheromone trap capture data, we project that black cutworms could start cutting around May 10 in the southern three tiers of counties, based on a sporadic early moth flight that occurred the first week of April. Additionally, cutting is possible from larvae hatched from eggs from a second significant flight observed around April 23—25. Scouting should start May 17 in the southern third of Iowa, May 19/18 in central Iowa and May 20/21 in the northern third of Iowa.



Dingy cutworm feeding has been reported in parts of Iowa, although they are not generally considered an economic problem. Black cutworms have two prominent tubercles (dark bumps) of different size on each body segment, whereas dingy cutworms have two tubercles that are the same size.

**Long Story Short:** Scouting for black cutworm in Iowa should begin in the next two weeks. Because black cutworm is a sporadic pest, preventative treatments are not advised. Economic treatment thresholds are 2-3% cut or wilted plants when larvae are less than 1" long and 5% when larvae are more than 1" long. A full story is available listing insecticide treatment options in the May 7, 2007 issue of the ICM Newsletter at [www.ent.iastate.edu/ipm/icm](http://www.ent.iastate.edu/ipm/icm), which should be posted by May 10.

**Source:** Marlin E. Rice and Rich Pope, ISU Department of Entomology