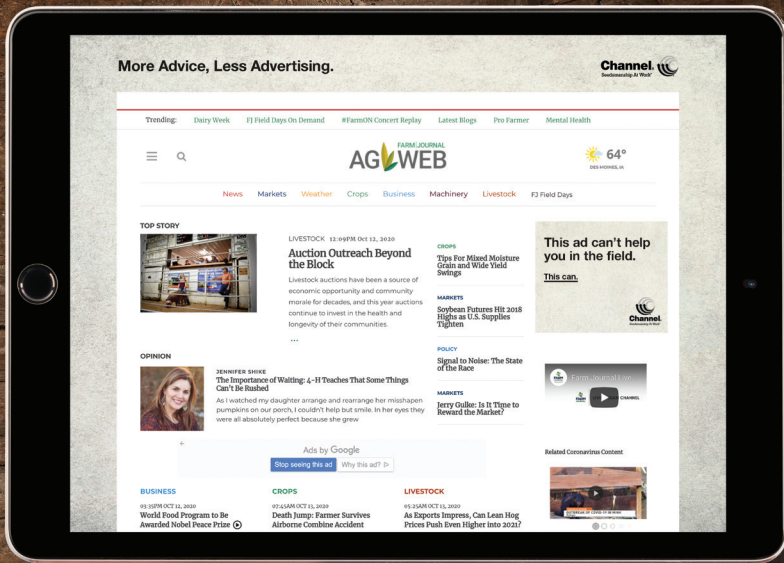


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JULY 16, 2020

How To Manage Corn Rootworm: The Billion-Dollar Bug

4 Minute Read Time | Field Check Up Findings

Corn rootworm (CRW) is a serious pest that can cost U.S. farmers around \$1 billion every season due to their feeding, which leads to costly root damage and stalk lodging. In this article, we asked Channel Seedsmen to provide real advice from the field to help you learn the when, how and what behind these bugs:

- When** to expect CRW emergence
- How** to scout in your field and what to look for
- What** you can do to prevent an infestation

When to Expect Corn Rootworm Emergence

You may have heard that CRW eggs start hatching around the same time that fireflies start to come out. But a more accurate way of estimating is to look at the accumulation of growing degree units (GDUs). Research has shown that about 50% of CRW eggs may hatch from 684 to 767 accumulated GDUs.

“We’re starting to see CRW earlier than usual this year because we had an early planting season and our growing degree units are ahead of schedule. So timing-wise, we’re seeing more damage than usual — plus we’re pretty dry over here, so that compounds the issue.”
-Brandon Moe, Channel Seedsman, Iowa

CRW Developmental Stages

- Larval:** Slender and cream-colored with brown heads and a dark plate on the top side of the tail. Depending on the maturity, larvae can be between 1/8 inch and 1/2 inch long. The larval stage has three developmental phases that last between seven and 10 days before pupation.
- Pupal:** White, somewhat translucent and is sessile and dormant.
- Adult:** Also known as CRW beetles. Yellow or green with a black stripe along the sides of the wing covers. Adults will be about 1/2 inch long.

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The infamous corn rootworm is a serious pest that is often referred to as

The Billion Dollar Bug

Field Check Up Findings

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