

Feature Story



Keeping the creepy crawlers away

Three things to know about corn soil pests

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC, January 9, 2018 — When it comes to keeping unwanted insects away from corn, there are multiple strategies growers can follow, whether it be tackling the problem from above the soil or beneath it. BASF Technical Marketing Manager Paula Halabicki shared her thoughts on how to manage pesky soil borne critters like corn root worm. Here are her three key takeaways:

>> Crop Rotation

One tool corn growers have in their toolbox to help fend off key critters and diseases is crop rotation. Exchanging crops susceptible to a particular disease or pest with a crop that is not susceptible, may prevent plant diseases and pests by adding more diversity from year to year. However, if growers plan on implementing crop rotation in their corn operation, they need to be mindful of whether or not the crop they are planting is a host crop for the diseases and pests they are trying to keep away.

“Unfortunately, soybeans are a host crop for some insect pests including corn root worm,” said Halabicki. “Unless you’re throwing in something else for a couple years to try and bring their numbers down, they’re still going to be there.”

>> Insect Protection from the Start

For those looking to add a unique crop protection product to their plan this upcoming season to fend off corn soil insecticides like corn root worm, Manticor™ LFR® In-Furrow fungicide/insecticide can help provide growers with a flexible option to fend off both diseases and pests.

“For the most part, growers would be using 9.5 fl. oz. per acre of Manticor on 30-inch rows and I would say that would be a good rate in combination with some other seed treatments and *Bacillus thuringiensis* (BT) genetics,” said Halabicki. “If you’re choosing not to go with BT genetics, I would suggest a higher rate to make sure you are getting enough impact from that insecticide.”

>> Scouting Fields

As growers look forward to the upcoming season — and hope planting conditions will be better this year than last — controlling corn soil pests early is vital to growing a healthy plant.

“It’s important to control insect pests at planting when you have the greatest yield potential, and you’re trying to protect that seed

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investment,” said Halabicki. “Those who have scouted their fields in the fall have had great success in keeping corn soil pests away, as they are better equipped to anticipate problems they may encounter.”

Also, learning from the previous year is important to keeping pests away. If growers can identify the insects when they are young, pests are easier to eliminate, as opposed to when they are full grown.

By implementing these key strategies, growers can help keep unwanted critters and diseases away from their crop. To learn more about Manticor or other crop protection products, visit agproducts.basf.us.

Always read and follow label directions.

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About BASF's Crop Protection division

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