

Corn Rootworm

Best Management Practices



Bayer has implemented a comprehensive program for the management of corn rootworm (CRW), including a series of best management practices (BMPs) to assist growers on every field where they report unexpected damage.

We encourage growers to follow recommended integrated pest management (IPM) practices, including cultural control tactics, scouting, and the appropriate use of pest thresholds and sampling. If you are not seeing high CRW pressure in a field and you are planting a product with a single mode of action such as VT Triple PRO® corn, we recommend updating your IPM program to include regular scouting to assess if the addition of an insecticide or other IPM practice is necessary. These BMPs provide practical solutions to reduce CRW populations, limit CRW damage, and enable insect resistance management.

1 Plant the required refuge

2 Rotate crops

Rotate to a crop that is not a CRW host, such as soybeans, at least every third year if any of the following are applicable:

- In long-term continuous corn system.
- CRW populations are high.
- Experiencing problems with CRW trait performance.

In areas where rotational-resistant CRW variants exist, such as extended diapause eggs or soybean, CRW management options may be needed the following year.

3 Rotate traits

- Use *B.t.* products with multiple modes of action for CRW control whenever possible.
- If using a product with multiple modes of action for CRW control is not an option, rotate to a different *B.t.*-traited product that controls CRW.

4 Use non-*B.t.* or non-corn CRW protected corn

- Use *B.t.* products with multiple modes of action for CRW control whenever possible.

5 Manage CRW with insecticides

Adult CRW Management Considerations

- Scout fields for CRW adults during silk stage (typically July and August) as adult CRW beetles feed on corn silks and may reduce yield.
- Foliar sprays may be an option if CRW beetle populations reach an economic threshold for damage (~1 beetle per plant).*
- Follow university extension service or local crop consultant recommendations for products, rates and proper timing of adult spray applications for reducing CRW beetle populations.
- Multiple sprays may be necessary.

Larval CRW Management Considerations

- The application of an insecticide to the soil surface, in furrows and/or incorporated into the soil (referred to as “soil applied insecticide,” “soil insecticide” or “SAI”) is not recommended for control of CRW in *B.t.*-traited corn except under limited circumstances.
- Consult with extension, crop consultants or other local experts for recommendations when considering a combination of CRW-protected traits and soil applied insecticides.
- SAIs should not be necessary for CRW control with pyramided CRW-traited *B.t.* corn.

*Culy, Edwards & Cornelius. 1992. Journal of Economic Entomology 85: 2440-2446.



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