

Field Corn

Armyworm

Frank B. Peairs



Armyworm

Identification (and life cycle/seasonal history)

Mature larvae are 25 to 40 millimeters (one to 1.5 inches) in length, smooth bodied, and dark gray to greenish black. They are characterized by five stripes, three on the back and two on the sides, running the length of the body. While the stripes on the back are variable in color, the stripes on the sides are pale orange with a white outline. The head is marked with a netlike pattern of black markings.

The armyworm is unable to survive our winters, and armyworm moths migrate into the region in early summer. They lay their eggs in rows or clusters on the lower leaves of various grass crops. Dense grassy vegetation is preferred for oviposition. Newly hatched larvae move with a looping (inch-worm) action. Larvae feed at night and on cloudy days, hiding under crop debris during sunny periods. One or more generations may occur per year.

Plant Response and Damage

Armyworm feeding is mostly limited to grasses, although this insect will feed on a number of other plants when starving. In Colorado, armyworm is mostly a pest of corn and spring grains. In corn, larvae may later enter the ear tip.

Management Approaches

Chemical Control

Armyworms migrate in to corn from grasses or onto corn within grassy cornfields. They are mostly a problem later in the season. They feed on the corn plant from the bottom leaves upward. If the lower third of the foliage is consumed before hard dent stage, chemical control may be justified. It is unknown if control can be expected with Bt corn hybrids.

Product list for Armyworm:

Pesticide	Product/Acre (Fl oz. or oz. product)	Preharvest Interval, remarks
Asana XLR,1	5.8 - 9.6	21 days. Apply as necessary to

Baythroid XLR,1	1.6 - 2.8	maintain control. Extremely Hazardous to Bees! 21 days. See labels. Extremely Hazardous to Bees!
bifenthrinR,1,2	2.1 - 6.4	30 days. Use rates below 5.12 fl. oz. only if spider mites are NOT a concern. Extremely Hazardous to Bees!
carbaryl1,2	See labels	48 days grain and stover, 14 days silage. Extremely Hazardous to Bees!
chlorpyrifos 4ER1,2	16 - 32	35 days. 14 days grazing. Not for use on popcorn. Extremely Hazardous to Bees!
CobaltR1	13 - 26	21 days. 14 days to graze. Extremely Hazardous to Bees!
Delta Gold R,1	1.5 - 1.9	21 days to harvest grain or fodder. 12 days to forage. Do not apply more than 0.095 lb ai/acre/crop. Extremely Hazardous to Bees!
HeroR,1	4.0 - 10.3	30 days to harvest grain or fodder. 60 days to forage. Do not apply more than 0.4 lb ai/acre/crop. Extremely Hazardous to Bees!
Intrepid 2F	4 - 8	21 days. 64 oz per season maximum. See label for timing information and crop rotation restrictions.
lambda cyhalothrinR,1,2	2.56 - 3.84	21 days. Apply as required by scouting or locally prescribed corn growth stages. Do not apply more than 0.12 lb (AI)/acre/season. Extremely Hazardous to Bees!
Lannate SP, LVR	4- 8 (SP) 12 - 24 (LV)	21 days to harvest grain or fodder. 3 days to forage. Do not apply more than 2.25 lb ai/acre/crop. Extremely Hazardous to Bees!
methyl parathion 4ER	8	12 days. Do not apply during pollen shed. Extremely Hazardous to Bees!
Mustang MAXR,1	3.2 - 4.0	30 days grain or stover, 60 days forage. Extremely Hazardous to Bees!
Penncap-MR	32 - 48	12 days. Do not apply during pollen shed if bees are foraging in the area. Extremely Hazardous to Bees!
permethrinR,1,2	See labels	30 days. Liquids are Extremely Hazardous to Bees!
ProaxisR,1	2.56 - 3.84	21 days. Apply as required by scouting or locally prescribed corn growth stages. Do not apply more than 0.06 lb (AI)/acre/season. Extremely Hazardous to Bees!
Radiant SC1	3 - 6	28 days. 3 days forage or fodder. Highly toxic to bees!
Tracer1	1 - 3	28 days grain or fodder, 7 days forage.

RRestricted use pesticide. **1**Labeled for chemigation. **2**Generic active ingredient, may be additional formulations.

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Categories: Field corn, Insects, Armyworm

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