

Cutworms, Wireworms, and their Management

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Wireworms



Wireworm larva photo source:
Reisig, D. and S. Roberson. 2011. Wireworms and Other Soil Dwelling Insects.
www.ces.ncsu.edu/plymouth/ent/wireworm.html



Wireworm Biology

- eggs laid in spring
- usually a 2- to 5-year larval development time (depending on species & conditions)
- fall adult emergence

RESULT = several years' worth of wireworms in the field at the same time!

Wireworm Management

- cereal crops are favoured hosts, but
 - present in many different crops
- management to promote vigorous, rapid crop growth
 - seed depth, date
 - fertility
 - crop density
- chemical controls

Cutworms

- adults



Cutworms



Legend:			J. Otani and J. Gavloski							
Common name	Species	Larval feeding	WINTER Oct-Mar	SPRING Apr	May	JUN Jun	SUMMER Jul	AUG Aug	FALL Sep	Oct
Redbacked	<i>Euxoa ochragaster</i> (Gn.)	Above-ground								
Darksided	<i>Euxoa messoria</i> (Haw.)	Above-ground								
Army	<i>Euxoa auxiliaris</i>	Above-ground								
Dingy	<i>Feltia jaculifera</i> (Gn.)	Above-ground								
Dingy	<i>Feltia herilis</i> (Grt.)	Above-ground								
Dingy	<i>Feltia subgothica</i> (Haw.)	Above-ground								
Pale western	<i>Agrotis orthogonia</i> Morrison	Subterranean								
Dusky	<i>Agrotis venerabilis</i> Wik.	Above-ground								
Glassy	<i>Apamea devastator</i> (Brace)	Subterranean								
Yellow-headed	<i>Apamea amputatrix</i>	Above-ground								
	<i>Apamea inficita</i>	Above-ground								
	<i>Apamea cogitata</i>	Above-ground								
Armyworm	<i>Pseudaletia unipuncta</i> (Haw.)	Above-ground								
Clover	<i>Discestra trifolii</i> (Hufn.)	Above-ground								
Bronze	<i>Nephelodes minians</i> Gn.	Above-ground								
Spotted	<i>Xestia adela</i> Franc.	Above-ground								
Bertha armyworm	<i>Mamestra configurata</i>	Above-ground								
Bristly	<i>Lacinipolia renigera</i> (Steph.)	Above-ground								

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Cutworm Control

- natural enemies
 - considerable importance in suppression
- cutworm scouting
- rotation management
- nominal thresholds
- chemical controls

How You Can Get Involved...

- Report cutworm locations in 2013:
 - cutworm tracking on Alberta Insect Pest Monitoring Network web page
 - In southern Alberta, contact me!

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