

# Corn Rootworm Best Management Practices



To effectively manage corn rootworm (CRW), implement a multiyear plan that includes a variety of tactics.

## CROP ROTATION



## PRODUCTS WITH MULTIPLE CRW Bt TRAITS



## SEED, SOIL OR FOLIAR-APPLIED INSECTICIDES



## ASSESS RISK:

- Did you plant the same CRW traits for consecutive years in the same fields?
- Did you notice large populations of CRW beetles?
- Did you observe root injury from CRW larvae?
- Are your fields planted to continuous corn?



# 1

## PLANT THE REQUIRED REFUGE



# 2

## ROTATE CROPS

Rotate at least every third year if any of the following:

- *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 soybeans, CRW management options may be needed the following year.

# 3

## ROTATE TRAITS

- Use Bt hybrids with multiple modes of action for CRW control whenever possible
- If using a hybrid with multiple modes of action for CRW control is not an option, rotate to a different Bt-traited hybrid that controls CRW
- Use a non-Bt-traited hybrid with insecticide

## MANAGE CRW WITH INSECTICIDES

### Adult CRW Management Considerations

- Scout fields for CRW adults during silking 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)<sup>1</sup>.
- 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 Bt-traited corn hybrids except under limited circumstances.
- Consult with extension, consultants or other local experts for recommendations when considering a combination of CRW traits and soil-applied insecticides.
- SAIs should not be necessary for CRW control with pyramided CRW-traited Bt corn hybrids.

Download a free Insect Resistance Management (IRM) corn refuge calculator at [www.irmcalculator.com](http://www.irmcalculator.com).

[www.IWillTakeAction.com](http://www.IWillTakeAction.com)

<sup>1</sup>Culy, Edwards & Cornelius. 1992. Journal of Economic Entomology 85: 2440-2446.  
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