



NEWS COLUMN

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It's Time to Scout For Black Cutworm in Central and Southern Illinois

URBANA – Corn producers across southern and central Illinois counties should be scouting their emerging corn seedlings for any signs of leaf feeding and cutting by black cutworms, reminds Mike Gray, University of Illinois Extension entomologist.

Gray said flights of black cutworm moths during the first two weeks of April could result in cutting-stage larvae in these areas of the state.

“Because of the delayed planting this spring, abundant winter annual weed populations, and intense flights of black cutworm moths that have occurred, producers should be very vigilant this year in their scouting efforts for this insect,” he said.

Producers can view black cutworm moth capture data for specific sites around the state by visiting the Pest Monitoring Site at <http://pmn.ipm.illinois.edu/index.php>.

Viewing specific site-trap capture data and looking for dates in which an intense flight (nine or more moths caught over a one- to two-day period) occurred, allows producers to enter these data into a black cutworm calculator (<http://www.isws.illinois.edu/warm/pestdata/sqlchoose1.asp?plc=>) and project when cutting may occur in their region, he said.

For more information on scouting and management procedures, please visit http://ipm.illinois.edu/fieldcrops/insects/black_cutworm/index.html.