

Corn Insects II

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1a. Western Corn Rootworm
1b. Northern Corn Rootworm



1. Corn Rootworm



2. Seed Corn Maggot



3. Wireworm



4. Southern Corn Leaf Beetle



5. Corn Leaf Aphid



6a. Twospotted Spider Mite



6b. Banks Grass Mite



8. White Grub



Annual Grub Three Year Grub



10. Chinch Bugs



7. Corn Flea Beetle



9. Seed Corn Beetle

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For more information on Nebraska corn insect identification and management, visit the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Department of Entomology website at entomology.unl.edu

| Insects | Identification |
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| Corn rootworm <i>Diabrotica virgifera</i> (LeConte) <i>Diabrotica longicornis</i> (Say) | <p>Adult: Occurs July to first frost. May feed on surface of corn leaves but prefers pollen and silks; silk clipping may interfere with pollination.</p> <p>Larva: Whitish with black to dark brown head and anal plate, about 1/2 inch long at maturity. Hatches in late May to mid June; feeds on and tunnels in corn roots in late June through July.</p> <p>Western corn rootworm. Adult: Females are yellow with black stripes, males vary from striped to nearly black; about 1/4 inch long.</p> <p>Northern corn rootworm. Adult: Uniform green, yellowish green or tan, without stripes, about 1/4 inch long.</p> |
| Seed corn maggot <i>Delia platura</i> (Meigen) | <p>Larva: Yellowish white, no legs, sharply pointed head; about 1/25 inch long at maturity. Damage occurs in April and May. Feeds inside the corn kernel, causing germination failure or weak seedlings.</p> |
| Wireworm <i>Melanotus spp.</i> | <p>Larva: Light tan to reddish tan, hard-bodied and shiny, about one inch long at maturity. Damage occurs in April and May; feeds inside the corn kernel, causing germination failure, or may bore into seedling stem, causing reduced plant vigor or death.</p> |
| Southern corn leaf beetle <i>Myochrous denticollis</i> | <p>Adult: Dark brown, often covered with soil particles; prothorax with three “teeth” on each lateral edge; about 3/16 inch long. Feeding damage occurs May through August. Feeds on the stems and leaf edges of corn seedlings, leaving a ragged appearance. Damage may be confused with cutworm injury.</p> |
| Corn leaf aphid <i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i> (Fitch) | <p>Adult: Winged or wingless, greenish-blue with black cornicles (“tail-pipes”) and legs, less than 1/25 inch long. Occurs mid-June through first frost. Feeds in developing whorls. Honeydew secretions on tassels and silk may interfere with pollination.</p> |
| Spider mites <i>Tetranychus urticae</i> (Koch) <i>Oligonychus pratensis</i> (Banks) | <p>Twospotted spider mite. Oval, light green to straw colored with two dark spots on the back; about 0.015 inch long. Produces large amounts of webbing. Feeding causes white spotting or stippling on the leaves. Heavy infestations reduce dry matter and grain production.</p> <p>Banks grass mite. Similar to twospotted spider mite in overall appearance, except that coloring is uniform. Does not produce as much webbing. Injury begins as spotting or stippling along the midrib and folded areas of the leaf. Severe damage results in death of leaf tissue and reduced yield.</p> |
| Corn flea beetle <i>Chaetocnema pulicaria</i> (Melsheimer) | <p>Adult: Shiny black with enlarged hind legs that enable it to jump when disturbed, about 1/16 inch long. Feeding damage occurs May through September. Feeds on corn leaves, removing the epidermis in linear streaks. Adults may transmit <i>Pantoea stewartii</i> while feeding, causing Stewart’s bacterial wilt disease.</p> |
| White grub | <p>Cyclocephala spp. (annual grubs, masked chafers) One generation a year. White, C-shaped with brown head capsule, three pairs thoracic legs and about 0.8 inch long at maturity. Spines on the underside of the last abdominal segment arranged in a random pattern. Larvae occur from July through May of the following year. May feed on corn root hairs and roots, causing minor damage.</p> <p>Phyllophaga spp. (three-year grubs, May/June beetles) Native pests. One generation every three years. Overwinters either as larva or adult. Similar to <i>Cyclocephala</i> spp. in appearance, except about 1.5 inches long at maturity with two parallel rows of spines on the underside of the last abdominal segment. Larvae feed on corn roots and root hairs, causing stunting and sometimes plant death. Damage to corn may occur throughout the growing season.</p> |
| Seed corn beetle <i>Stenolophus lecontei</i> (Chaudoir) | <p>Adult: Dark brown with a light brown border stripe on the wing covers, about 1.25 inches long. Damage occurs in April and May. Feeds inside the corn kernel, causing germination failure or weak seedlings. Larvae predaceous on insects.</p> |
| Chinch bug <i>Blissus leucopterus leucopterus</i> (Say) | <p>Adult: Wings fully developed, mostly black with a white triangle in the middle of each wing, elongate, about 3/16 inch long. Feeding occurs from May through September. Sucks sap from the corn plant, mostly from behind leaf sheaths, but occasionally from the roots. Symptoms of injury may include stunting, red feeding marks behind leaf sheaths, yellow streaking on leaves, growth distortion, death.</p> <p>Nymph: Five stages, wings absent, but external wing pads are visible in later stages; early stages are red, later stages are black with a white band across the body mid-section.</p> |

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