

Abstract – A timely tango: The secrets of corn earworm and learning the stink bug stomp

While European corn borer populations have declined in the last few decades, corn earworm (CEW) has become an increasingly more important pest of concern in New York State sweet corn production. Annual CEW population patterns are also changing, which means that traditional assumptions about its management need to be reconsidered. At the same time, New York is experiencing increased populations of brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB). BMSB is a generalist piercing sucking insect that is known to cause severe economic loss in sweet corn in other areas of the United States, including the mid-Atlantic states. New York sweet corn producers need a basic set of management options for BMSB before a local crisis occurs. In this talk we will discuss new ways to manage CEW and improve existing management guidelines. We will also discuss the results of insecticide efficacy trials completed in 2012 and 2013 that provide growers with important information in the event that BMSB becomes an economic problem in New York State.