New options for caterpillar management in sweet corn

Dan Olmstead and Tony Shelton Entomology Section, Cornell University

The corn earworm caterpillar is a key pest of sweet corn in New York State. We will discuss ways to protect sweet corn more effectively by targeting early silk stages of ear development when female moths are very attracted to the plant. In this context, we will talk about the use of currently registered products that contain the active ingredients methomyl, chlorantraniliprole, and lambda-cyhalothrin using different timing schedules. We will also cover the selection of Bt sweet corn varieties based on localized historical adult earworm pressure.