

# Spring Sunflower Boot Camp 6 – Early Season Insects

# Early Season Insects



# Early season insects - Cutworm

- **Damage:** Cutworms usually damage the young plants by cutting them off below or above the soil surface. This generally occurs in early emergence. Cutworms feed mostly at night and rest during the day below the soil surface near recently damaged plants
- **Scouting Method:** Check fields at least twice a week during early emergence looking for cutoff plants or digging around a damaged plant to determine if cutworms are present. One producer uses a sprayer mounted on a four wheeler. He sprays an X pattern in the field with a labeled insecticide and late



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- The difficulty with this insect is scouting due to night-time feeding. Thus, entomologists recommend an evening insecticide application.
- The NDSU recommended threshold level is 1 larva per square foot.



# Early season insects - Cutworm Management

- **Management:** Most of the commercial insecticides labeled on sunflower include cutworm as well. This works well for surface feeding cutworms. A number of producers in reduced tillage systems now calculate a cutworm insecticide treatment in their budgets. Control is done at emergence or just prior. It is important to note that insecticide seed treatments are not labeled to control cutworms in sunflower.

# THANK YOU

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