

Corn, Sweet—Wireworms

Ctenicera and *Limonius* spp.

Pest description and crop damage Wireworms are the soil-dwelling larvae of click beetles. Adult click beetles are slender, tan to nearly black, and about 0.375 inch long. Larvae are hard, segmented, 0.375 to 0.5 inch long and dark yellow or brown. They resemble mealworms.

Wireworms injure seedlings by feeding on roots, tubers, or bulbs, or boring into stems. Damage is more common in spring planted crops where the soil has a high organic content, such as fields that recently have been in or adjacent to alfalfa, pasture, or uncontrolled weeds. Wireworms do not significantly damage older plants.

Management—biological, cultural, tactical

See the Wireworm Control supplement in this book.

Management—chemical control

1. carbofuran (Furadan 15G) at 1.2 oz ai/1,000 row ft. Apply at planting in a covered band or in the seed furrow.
2. carboxin (Germate Plus) at 1.8 oz of product/50 lb seed. Planter box treatment.
3. chlorpyrifos (Lorsban 4E) at 2 lb ai/a. PHI 14 days for grazing or silage, 35 days for fodder. Apply preplant as a broadcast spray and incorporate. Do not exceed 15 pints/a per season.
4. chlorpyrifos (Lorsban 15G) at 2 lb ai/a preplant or 0.075 to 0.15 lb ai/1,000 row ft. Broadcast and incorporate 4 to 6 inches or apply as band or in furrow at planting. Only one application per season.
5. chloropicrin (Telone II, Telone C-17, Telone C-35). Preplant.
6. diazinon at 3 to 4 lb ai/a. Preplant broadcast and incorporate.
7. ethoprop (Mocap) at 0.075 lb ai/1,000 row ft. Apply as a band on row or closed seed furrow.
8. tefluthrin (Force 3G) at 0.12 to 0.15 oz ai/1,000 row ft. Use either at planting or lay-by. One application only per year. OR only.
9. terbufos (Counter15G) at 1.2 to 2.4 oz ai/1,000 row ft. Apply as band or in furrow at planting. Use the 1.2-oz rate in furrows or the 2.4-oz rate as a band.