

Fall Armyworm.

Spodoptera frugiperda



Damage on the funnel by larvae (Photo: M. Kasina, KALRO, Kenya



Y" pattern on head of Armyworm larva (Photo: desiree vanheerden Syngenta)

	Prevention
•	Plough deep to expose the pupae to predators and solar heat
•	Avoid late or off-season planting, plant early to avoid pest population build up.
•	Plant maize varieties wi hard husk cover to prevent the pest from

- s with entering the cob
- Keep field weed free to remove alternate hosts
- Plant at correct spacing and ensure optimum use of fertilizer
- Avoid planting new crop near infested plants
- Do not move infested maize materials from one area to another to reduce spreading the pest instead graze livestock on them or make silage.

◆ Start monitoring for the pest one week after germination

Monitoring

- Look for cream / grey egg masses covered in a felt-like layer of grey-pink scales on the underside of leaves
- ◆ Look for a green, brown or black larva. A mature caterpillar has a distinct white line between the eyes which form an inverted "Y" pattern on the face with pronounced four black spots aligned in a square on the top of the 8th segment near the back end
- ◆ Look for small shot or large ragged and elongated holes on the leaves and inside whorls of young plants
- ◆ Set up at least one FAW specific pheromone trap per Ha to detect the pest
- Monitor damage on 10 consecutive plants in 10 randomly selected sites. Apply relevant measures if 10% of plants are infested

◆ Handpick and squash or drop caterpillar in hot water. Killing one caterpillar prevents more than 1500 new caterpillars after a period 4 weeks.

Direct Control

- Put a half handful of sand / sawdust or soil in the whorl of the attacked plants to kill the larvae.
- ◆ Apply a pinch of 50gm groundhot pepper + 2kg ash into plant funnel at kneehigh.
- Release egg parasitoid Trichogramma spp at a rate of 50,000 to 100,000 eggs per acre
- ◆ Spray Bacillus thuringiensis var azawai to control the pest
- Spray neem based product (50ml/20l of water).
- ◆ Mass trap the pest (4-6) pheromone traps per (HA)

Insecticides effective on young larvae and before they enter the funnel and

Restrictions

- Apply minimum 3 spays, 2 weeks after emergence at knee high and before tasseling
- ◆ Lambda-cyhalothrin WHO Class II (Moderately hazardous) ◆ REI 24hours, PHI 3days

Direct Control

- Alpha-Cypermethrin WHO class II (moderately hazardous). REI is 24hours
- Chlorpyrifos WHO Class II (Moderately hazardous) PHI 14days, MRL1mg/kg
- Spinosad ♦ WHO class III (slightly hazardous)
 - Toxic to honey bees: Avoid spraying during flowering and near water ways);) and PHI 3 days, REI 12Hours

Kenya

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