

Where are they now?

Quick Guide to WBC size and location on corn

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This two-page bulletin shows the location and size of western bean cutworm in corn. Pictures were taken in a corn field where individual plants were infested with a single WBC egg mass. Eggs hatched between July 31-August 2, 2009. Plants were sacrificed over time to follow larval development and location on the plant.

1-5 Days after hatch

Most larvae in or near tassel, or in leaf axils, feeding on pollen
Some (20% or less) headed down the plant into the silks



*Tiny larva in tassel.
Note small hole where it fed on pollen.*



*Larvae in leaf axil, feeding on pollen grains,
with a minute pirate bug predator .
MPB were seen on WBC egg masses in the
field, and were common in tassels, axils, and
silks with larvae. It may be a key natural
enemy of eggs and small WBC caterpillars.*



10 Days after hatch

- A few still in leaf axils near ear
- Majority found in the silks



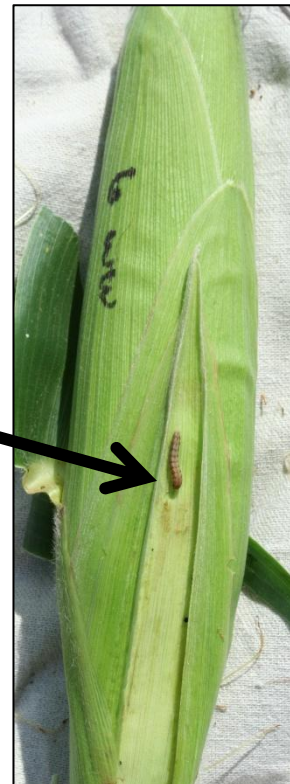
14 Days after Hatch

- Larvae considerably larger. Note dark, stripey coloration.
- Most larvae in ear tip, feeding on kernels.
- A few larvae found between the ear and the stalk.



21 Days after Hatch

- Larvae in tip, continuing to feed. Tip becoming frassy and moist.
- Larvae hanging out between the ear and stalk begin to chew through the husk, into the side of the ear.



30 Days after Hatch

- Large larvae in ear tip or side, consuming whole kernels
- Will drop to the ground shortly, burrow into ground to overwinter.