

Though not present in all fields, the corn wireworm can cause severe damage to sweetpotato roots. Insecticides currently labeled for use in sweetpotato will not control corn wireworm, but avoiding rotations that include corn reduces your risk of damage.



Corn wireworm is part of a complex of wireworm species that damages sweetpotato.

Reduce your risk for damage from the wireworm complex

- Avoid corn in your sweetpotato rotations to reduce risk of corn wireworm
- and
- Use PPI applications to control overwintered wireworms*
- and
- Use soil barrier insecticide treatments at cultivation to control newly hatched wireworms*

* See North Carolina Agricultural Chemicals Manual

For more information on sweetpotato pest management, contact your local North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service Center.

Recommendations for the use of agricultural chemicals are included in this publication as a convenience to the reader. The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services in this publication does not imply endorsement by North Carolina Cooperative Extension nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned. Individuals who use agricultural chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. Be sure to obtain current information about usage regulations and examine a current product label before applying any chemical. For assistance, contact your county Cooperative Extension agent.

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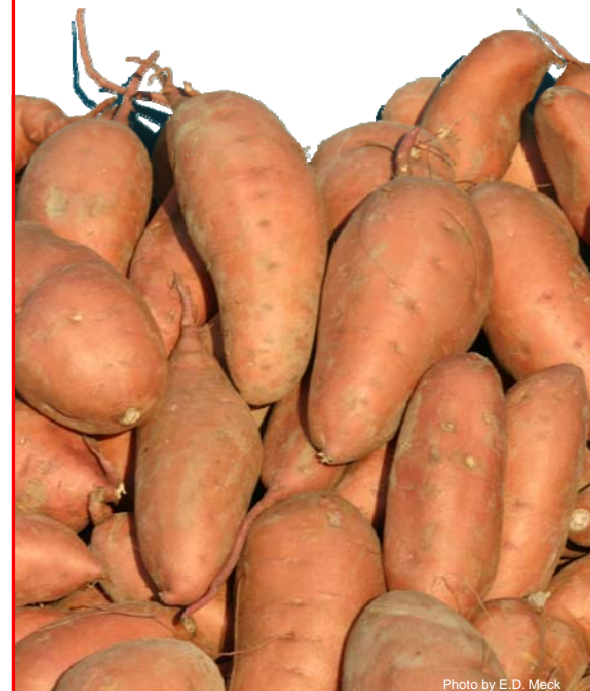
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REDUCING THE RISK OF CORN WIREWORM DAMAGE IN SWEETPOTATO



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Eliminating corn from crop rotations is the only method known to reduce the risk of corn wireworm damage in sweetpotato.

Corn wireworm facts:

- Corn wireworm is a part of a complex of wireworm species that damages sweetpotato.
- Large corn wireworm larvae cannot be controlled with insecticides labeled for use on sweetpotato.
- Populations can build up in corn fields.
- Larvae live in the soil for up to three years.
- Planting sweetpotatoes in fields where high numbers of larvae are present will result in severe damage.



Corn wireworm-damaged root

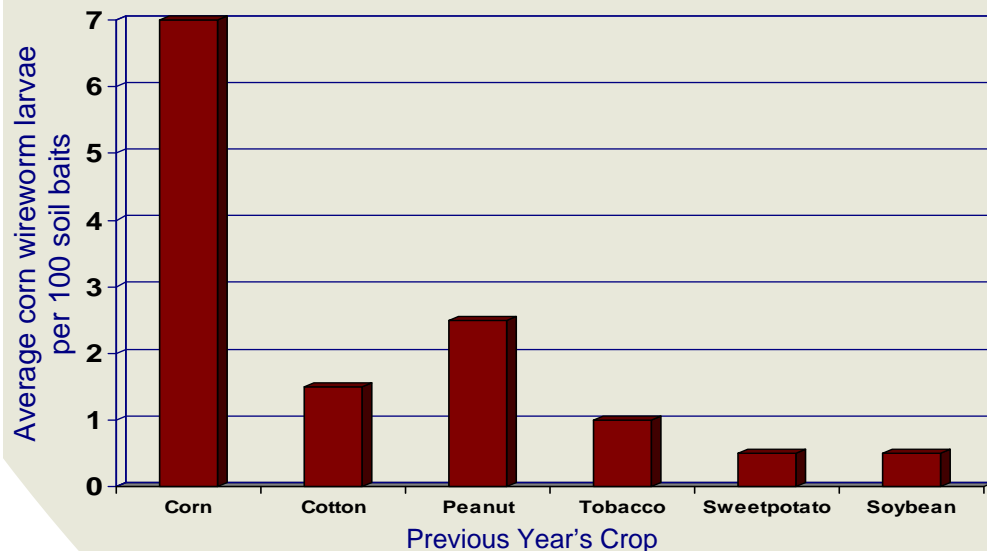


Corn Wireworm larvae
(Approximately 2½ times actual size)

Not all sweetpotato fields planted after corn will have high corn wireworm populations.

- When corn wireworm is present, damage to sweetpotato roots can be severe.
- Sampling methods capable of accurately predicting damage are not available.
- Avoiding corn in crop rotations is currently the only way to reduce the risk of corn wireworm damage in sweetpotato.

NC State research shows more corn wireworm larvae in sweetpotato fields planted behind corn than behind other crops.



Managing the wireworm complex in sweetpotato requires multiple tactics.

Pre-plant incorporated insecticides followed by soil barrier insecticide treatments applied at cultivation are proven to reduce wireworm damage at harvest.**

- PPI applications will kill overwintering larvae of most wireworm species but not corn wireworm.
- Soil barrier insecticide treatments applied at cultivation target the summer generation of tobacco wireworm but not the corn wireworm.

Do not plant sweetpotatoes for at **least two years** after corn to reduce the risk of root damage by corn wireworm.

**See North Carolina Agricultural Chemicals Manual