

AGRICULTURAL BEET

May 17, 2024

Cody Bakker – Ag Strategy Manager

Black Cutworm Alert!

Our 2024 crop is off to a great start with excellent stands above 180 plants per 100' and several in the 240 count range. With this great crop potential we always want to maintain as much stand as possible. Black cutworm moths migrate from far south and target green cover or soybean stubble when dropping out of their long flight.

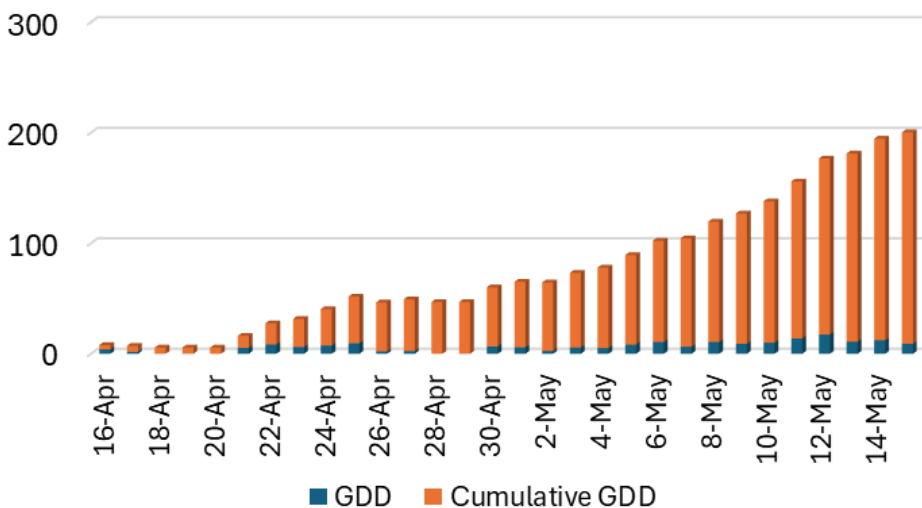
The Southwest Research and Outreach Center operates the BCW Reporting Network to monitor these migrations through several trap locations. [SWROC BCW Reporting Network Site](#). Renville County traps recorded the **highest cutworm moth counts in over 10 years this spring!**

UMN Extension Entomologist Bruce Potter indicated that the SMBSC growing area may be at higher risk of cutworm activity this spring due to these record moth trap captures. A growing degree day model is used to predict early corn cutting based on larvae reaching the 4th instar at 300 GDD.



The trigger for tracking cumulative GDD's is the first 2-night trap capture exceeding 8 moths. For Renville, that "biofix" date occurred on 4/16. As of 5/16 we have reached 191 GDD so it is time to start monitoring stands closely.

Black Cutworm Post Biofix GDD



Agricultural Department
Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative

Information Credit:

Bruce Potter, UMN Extension
Mark Boetel, NDSU Extension
Greg Haubrich, Circle H Agronomy
Dan Haubrich, Central Crop Consulting



Sugarbeet seedlings are more vulnerable than corn as the growing point sits above ground during earlier stages of growth. Late 2nd and 3rd instar cutworms may be clipping sugarbeets now so we need to be on the lookout.

Scouting for Black Cutworm

It is hard to identify infestations early so we recommend frequent stand count station checks in vulnerable areas to avoid the scenario in the photo to the right. Watch your soybean ground, and fields bordering hay and grassland carefully. There are over 14,000 acres of our beet crop following soybeans this year.



Thresholds and Recommendations

The economic threshold for treating cutworm depends on the sugar beet population in your field and the amount of feeding/cutworms that are present. Published thresholds mention 4-5% cutting being the threshold for treatment, but this is likely too high in fields with stands below 170/100'. If larvae populations reflect the record level moth captures seen this year, the threshold could be met much more rapidly than typically seen in SMBSC fields. Treatment decisions should be made on a field by field basis. For assistance with those decisions, contact your Agriculturalist.

Insecticide Options

Product	Rate	Notes
Asana XL	5.8-9.6 oz./acre	
Mustang Maxx	4.0 oz./acre	
Chlorpyrifos - 2024 registration required. Drexel, Tenkoz, Gharda, and Loveland product only)	1.5-2 pints/acre	Do not tank-mix with Quadris, Headline, EC formulations of any products, or products containing oil adjuvants.

Always consult the product label for specifics on application rates and timing. All three insecticides listed are Restricted Use Pesticides.

