

FALL ARMYWORM UPDATE (Courtesy of Seed and Grain Readiness and Response)

17th February 2023

Key Points:

- Understandably the events and response surrounding Cyclone Gabriella have taken priority, therefore FAW confirmations have been updated this week but some regions will not have been scouted.
- Numbers of moths in Northland traps have increased again, larvae of varying instars also being present in maize crops. This indicates varying FAW generations present from now on.
- Since 1st September 2022 there have been 113 confirmed FAW finds (this is the number of properties where the pest has been found, not the number of insects found)
- Maize and sweet corn crops in areas not affected by the cyclone, should be scouted where possible and when safe to do so.
- There are no signs of FAW yet in Canterbury, but some damage from other established noctuids was noted.
- The insecticide Sparta is on label for use on maize and sweetcorn crops.
- We are still in a response. All finds must be reported to <https://report.mpi.govt.nz/pest> or 0800 80 99 66
- There are no negative consequences to growers for reporting, as this pest will not be controlled by removing crops.



Photo: Early and late instar FAW larvae, courtesy G. Walker.

Please contact your local advisor for details on the safe use of this or any other insecticides on maize or sweetcorn.

Thresholds of economic damage

Plant Health Australia provides useful guidance for this:

CROP	THRESHOLD
Maize vegetative	>3 larvae per plant and/or 50% of plants show signs of fresh feeding
Maize whorl stage	>20% of plants at whorl stage with one or more larvae and/or more than 75% of plants showing signs of feeding damage
Sweet corn Tassel emergence	>15% of plants infested at tassel emergence

For useful tools and guides on detection and identification consult FAR website for the latest identification guides <https://www.far.org.nz/assets/files/blog/files//8a209e4b-4ca8-5338-af06-f3b80bab18e2.pdf> and MPI Website www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/50839-Fall-armyworm-fact-sheet or contact Ivan Lawrie ivan.lawrie@far.org.nz and Ash Mills ashley.mills@far.org.nz