



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

6th April 2023

Key Points:

- As it has become apparent that FAW is unlikely to be eradicated in NZ, the FAW response will end and we will go into Long Term Management on Friday 21st April. This will be an industry-led management transition.
- To date there are a total of 139 confirmed reports of FAW across NZ.
- FAW has been confirmed in North Canterbury sweetcorn, although in small numbers. A report on a sweetcorn crop from last year in a similar area has also been confirmed and added to the total confirmed reports.
- The last few weeks have seen large moth flights in Northland, highlighting the name 'FALL' Armyworm where populations build up to potentially cause devastating damage to autumn crops.
- It is important to stay vigilant and scout any neighbouring paddocks in the absence of maize and sweetcorn as FAW will predate a large variety of crops. They have been observed on ryegrass and clover in a harvested maize paddock. Volunteer Maize should not be overlooked either. Mulching or grazing any regrowth could be a good option to reduce some FAW numbers.
- AT THIS STAGE WE ARE STILL IN A RESPONSE. All finds must be reported to <https://report.mpi.govt.nz/pest> or 0800 80 99 66
- The insecticide Sparta® is now on label for both aerial and ground applications for the control of Fall Armyworm on maize and sweetcorn crops. Consult with your advisor and avoid the use of insecticides that are ineffective on Fall Armyworm and potentially harmful to beneficial insects such as parasitic wasp *Cotesia sp.* which will help contain the numbers.
- There are no negative consequences to growers for reporting, as this pest will not be controlled by removing crops.

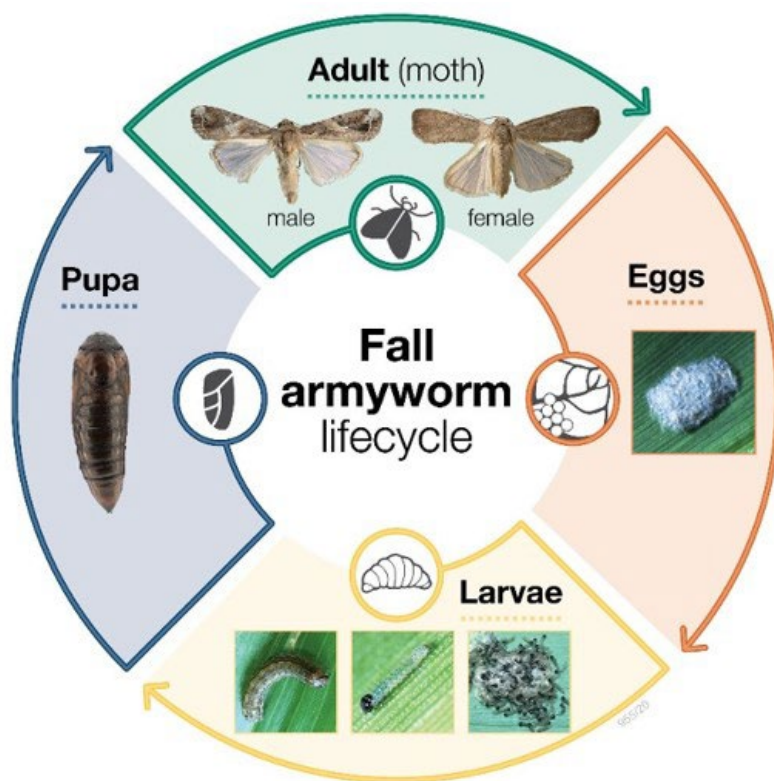


Photo: : Fall armyworm life cycle, courtesy MPI. www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/50839-Fall-armyworm-fact-sheet

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 the 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