








Technical Bulletin for: **CORN EARWORM**

Helicoverpa zea (Boddie) • Lepidoptera: Noctuidae • HELZEA



DISTRIBUTION	North and South America
HOSTS	Cotton, maize, tomato, beans. Alternatively: tobacco, sorghum, cabbage, capsicum, okra, and other legumes, vegetables, crops or wild hosts.
DESCRIPTION	
Adult Moth	A stout bodied brown moth. Hind wings pale with a broad dark border. Wingspan 40-44 mm.
Larvae	Plump, greenish to brown, with several longitudinal lines, 40-45 mm.
Eggs	Spherical, 0.5 mm diameter, yellow turning brown, laid singly on foliage.
LIFE HISTORY	Female lays 1,000 or more eggs. Larvae develop in 14-60 days, depending upon temperature. Adults emerge after 12-15 days as pupae inside an earthen cell. In colder climates the pupa overwinters. Generations, 5-6 per year.

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE	 (Z)-11-hexadecenal, (Z)-9-hexadecenal on red rubber septum. Lure longevity: four (4) weeks.
TRAP TO USE	Plastic or Paper Delta    or Wing Trap 
MONITORING STRATEGY	Deploy traps in Spring (at planting) 1 m above soil or growing crop canopy. For monitoring populations overwintering as pupae, place traps in fields with last year's host crop. Change the trap and lure every 4 weeks or more frequently, depending upon temperature and dusty conditions. Check with your local Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROL	In sweet corn, very early plantings require fewer treatments than late-season corn because earworm population densities increase as the season progresses.

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