





Technical Bulletin for: Corn Stalk Borer

Sesamia nonagrioides (Lefèbvre) • Lepidoptera, Noctuidae • SESNON



DISTRIBUTION	Spain, Southern France, Italy, The Balkans, Northwestern Africa, Southwestern Africa, Western Africa
HOSTS	Maize, Perennial grasses, Giant Cane, Wheat, Barley, Oats, Millet, Sugar Cane. Occasionally attacks Asparagus, and Cotton.
DESCRIPTION	
Adult Moth	Wingspan: 30-40 mm long. Forewings are yellowish gray, marked with marginal band with rounded spots. Hindwings are white.
Larvae	Yellowish to brownish with a rust-colored back and reach a length of 30–40 mm when full grown.
Eggs	Grooved, whitish at laying, then creamy-pink.
LIFE HISTORY	Variable number of generations per year, ranging from two to up to four, depending on climate. Females lay eggs on grass in late summer / early fall. Eggs overwinter, hatching in late April or early May. Larvae of the first generation are particularly destructive, because they tunnel the maize stem during the whole larval stage. Pupation takes place at least partially in the stems, with adults generally emerging in late March or early April, taking wing from April until possibly as late as October.

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE	Z11-16Ac, Z11-16OH and Z11-16Ald on a Red Rubber Septum. Lure longevity: 30 days.	
TRAP TO USE	Red Paper or Plastic Delta Trap	
MONITORING STRATEGY	Hang traps at ear level near potential hosts in Late Winter to Early Spring, replacing lure as necessary throughout if problems persist. Check with Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.	
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROL	Look for damaged, wilting or dead host plants, remove and dispose of infested plants as necessary. Intercropping with hybrid maize has also proven effective in the case of corn growing.	

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