

### Pest Facts

- Latin name is *Spodoptera frugiperda*
- Are some of the most important pests in corn world-wide, especially in tropical climates, where they reside year round in high numbers
- Native to the southern United States and especially damaging on second plantings
- Does not overwinter in most of the Corn Belt but moves north during the season on storms
- Wide host plant range, including:
  - Corn, soybeans, cotton, bermudagrass, rice
  - Many broadleaf plants
  - Many small grains
- Favorable conditions:
  - Semi-tropical and tropical climates
  - Late-planted corn in whorl stage
- Natural enemies include parasitic wasps and flies, but these cannot reliably keep the pest in check
- Unlike the regular armyworm and other moth larvae, the fall armyworm normally feeds during the day



Parasitic wasp larvae clustered on a parasitized fall armyworm caterpillar

### Key Characteristics

- Brown/gray larva with distinct tubercles along body
- Three thin white stripes down the back and a distinct white inverted "Y" on head
- Young larvae may be difficult to distinguish from corn earworm (CEW)

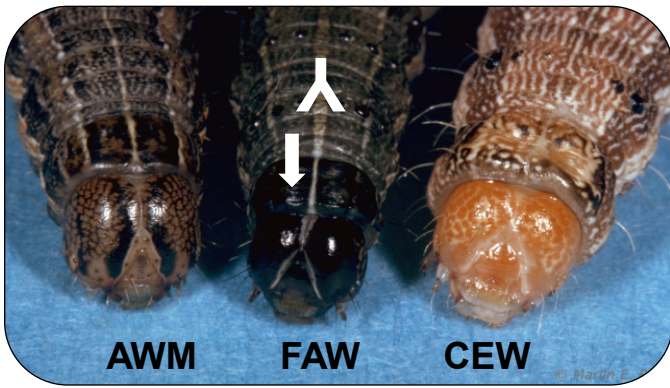
### Pest Injury Symptoms and Impact on Crop



- Larvae feed inside whorls on young plants
- Feeding injury in leaves ranges from small shot holes to large ragged and elongate holes
- Deep feeding in whorl may destroy developing tassel
- Defoliation reduces photosynthetic area, which may stunt plants and reduce yield
- Larvae will enter through the side of the ear and feed on developing kernels, reducing grain quality and yield



## Related / Confused Species



- True Armyworm (AWM)
  - Subdued colors, present in large numbers
  - Smooth cuticle
- Corn Earworm (CEW)
  - Bright, variable colors
  - Cuticle has “unshaven” look
- Yellow Striped Armyworm (YSA)
  - Very bright, with yellow stripe
  - Dark spot

## IPM Practices

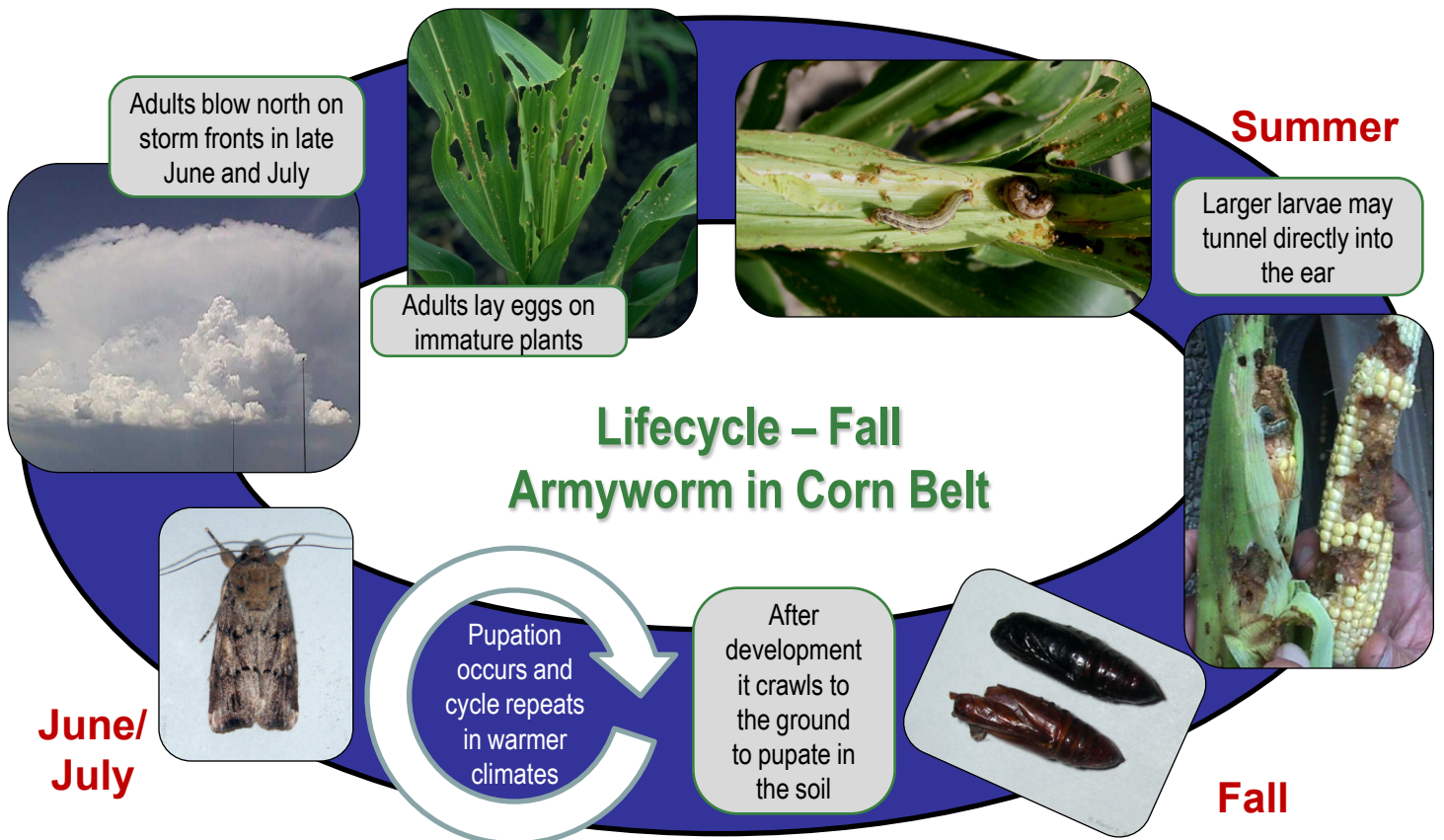
- Scouting – scout late-planted fields as they reach V5-V8. Thresholds for treatment are based on defoliation levels and potential for FAW larvae entering the ear.
- Pesticides are only effective on young larvae and before they enter the ear
- Utilize early planting to avoid this and other pests

## Management Considerations Using Pioneer Products

Herculex® I hybrid (left) vs. YieldGuard® Corn Borer hybrids (center and right)



- Pioneer Bt corn hybrids with Herculex® I or Herculex® XTRA provide a high level of resistance to FAW
- Hybrids with only the YieldGuard® Corn Borer gene are much less effective
- Biological controls: Parasitic wasps / flies – not reliable



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