

# European Corn Borer

## *Ostrinia nubilalis* (Hübner) (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae)

(Origin: Europe)



European Corn Borer Adults

**Primary Host:** Corn, peppers and beans.

**Damage:** Larvae feed on foliage and ears of corn, bore inside pepper fruit, and feed on or bore into bean pods.

**Management:** Monitor with black light or pheromone traps.

**Biocontrols:** *Trichogramma ostrinae* parasitize egg masses of the European Corn Borer.

**Cultural Controls:** Choose hybrid with tolerance to corn borers. Shred or bury old stalks to kill over-wintering larvae.

**Physical Controls:** Keep weedy field edges and fence rows clipped to avoid a harbor for the moths.

**Chemical Controls:** Contact your local Penn State County Extension Agent for more information. <http://www.extension.psu.edu/extmap.html>

### Insect Description:

**Adults:** Yellowish buff to light tan with dark zigzag marks across wings. Wing spread  $\frac{3}{4}$ -1".

**Pupae:** Remains inside host plant; smooth, light to dark brown in color;  $\frac{1}{3}$ - $\frac{5}{8}$ " in length.

**Larvae:** Dirty white, smooth skin with many dark spots over sides and top of body; hairless; with dark head.

**Eggs:** Glued to underside of leaves in clusters of 12 or more resembling overlapping fish scales.

**Life History:** 1<sup>st</sup> generation larvae over-winter in stalks of host plant, transform into pupae in late April to early June. Adults emerge and lay eggs mid-May to mid-June. Larvae chew holes in leaves, then into stalk, where they pupate. 2<sup>nd</sup> generation moths emerge in late July to late August. Larvae complete growth before cold weather and winter in plants.



European Corn Borer Larva