

VEGETABLE RESEARCH PROJECTS

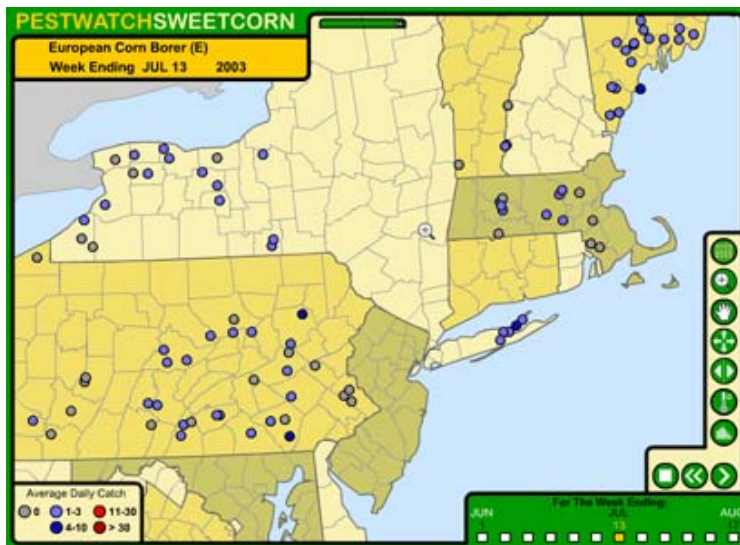
UMass Research Farm Field Day, August 13, 2003

Sweet Corn State-wide and Regional Trapping Network Pest Alerts through Vegetable Notes and Pestwatch Website

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Every week, the UMass Extension Vegetable Program collects information from around New England on agricultural pests and crop conditions. This data is supplied by IPM consultants, USDA agency staff, field scouts, and participating growers. Because sweet corn is such an important vegetable crop in Massachusetts, comprising about 40% of the acreage in vegetables, and pheromone trap captures of key moth pests are a valuable indicator of what management actions are required, we have maintained a statewide sweet corn pheromone trap network since 1986. We currently collect trap counts of European corn borers, corn earworms, and fall armyworms from nineteen sites, from Brandon in central Vermont to Rehobeth in Southeastern Massachusetts.



These trap data, along with tomato disease forecasts based on hourly weather measurements from our datalogger at the South Deerfield Research Farm, are published in *Vegetable Notes*, our weekly newsletter. Our newsletter is distributed to subscribers in both hard copy and electronically as e-mail. The newsletter is also available on our website (<http://www.umassvegetable.org>). Both the current issue

and archives of past issues are available here.

We also forward our data on to the Pestwatch network. Maintained by Pennsylvania State University, Pestwatch is a graphic tool designed to map flight patterns of sweet corn pests up the Northeastern seaboard from Virginia to Maine. Data is collected from both

individual growers and academic scouting networks (such as ours) throughout the region. These numbers are recorded into a database and then passed on to software that visually plots the data into an animated regional map. The mapping tool provides a simple, feature-rich interface, allowing visitors to the website to animate changes in trap capture counts, choose different data sets and view data from prior weeks.

Pestwatch is a quick and powerful tool to help growers predict pest flights and changes in populations. You can access Pestwatch online at <http://www.pestwatch.psu.edu>.