



## Insects attacking early-planted corn and beans

*Chris DiFonzo, PhD, MSU Department of Entomology*

Early-planted fields are often at risk for certain insect problems, and since many of these insects also overwinter in Michigan, we sometimes see atypical cases of heavy damage.

### In corn:

***Corn rootworm:*** Eggs hatch in May and June. Earlier planted fields often have a larger root mass by the time of egg hatch, and sometimes can experience more damage.

***European chafer:*** Overwinter as grubs in the field. Generally stop feeding in May, pupate, and emerge as adults beetles. Field planted earlier are at risk for root feeding.

***European corn borer:*** Larvae overwinter in crop residue. Adults will emerge in May. Females are attracted to the earliest emerging (tallest) corn for egg-laying.

***Flea hopper:*** Overwinter as adults. May carry and transmit the Stewarts wilt pathogen important in seed and sweet corn production. Likely survived the winter well this year.

***Slugs:*** Can be a greater problem in early-planted fields with heavy residue that emerge slowly under cool, wet conditions (providing a greater time for slug damage). However, dry conditions do not favor slugs.

### In soybean:

***Bean leaf beetle:*** Adults overwinter in woodlots, leaf litter, and crop debris. Adults become active in April, spend time in alfalfa, then move to soybean fields to feed. Early emerging soybean fields are thus most at risk for damage.

***Slugs:*** Can be a greater problem in early-planted fields with heavy residue that emerge slowly under cool, wet conditions (providing a greater time for slug damage). However, dry conditions do not favor slugs.

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity institution. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, or family status. • Issued in furtherance of Extension work in agriculture and home economics, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Tom Coon, Extension Director, Michigan State University, E. Lansing, MI 48824. • This information is for education purposes only. References to commercial products or trade names do not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned.