

# Pest Profile



**Photo credit:** Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska - Lincoln

**Common Name:** European Corn Borer

**Scientific Name:** *Ostrinia nubilalis*

**Order and Family:** Lepidoptera, Crambidae

**Size and Appearance:**

	<b>Length (mm)</b>	<b>Appearance</b>
<b>Egg</b>	1mm x .75 mm	Opaque white, oval, flattened; progresses to beige and orange-tan toward hatching; laid in masses of 15-20 eggs in a shingle like overlapping pattern on undersides of leaves; hatch in 4-9 days.
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	2mm - 20mm	Light brown to dull grey colored body with brown to black head capsule; yellow thoracic (plate behind head) plate; round dark spots on body.
<b>Adult</b>	20mm – 34mm	Pale yellow to light brown; hind and fore wings possess dark zigzag pattern; coloration and size is sexually dimorphic (different looking); males are smaller and darker; 1-4 generations depending on location.
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>	14mm – 17mm	Yellowish-brown; has 5-8 spines on end of abdomen to help anchor the pupa to the cocoon; pupate inside the plant; pupa may be covered in thin cocoon.

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Larvae: Chewing

**Host plant/s:** Corn is the preferred host plant, however the European Corn Borer will infest a wide variety of herbaceous plants. Snap and lima beans, pepper, and potato are preferred late in the corn season as corn becomes unattractive for egg laying. Further host plants affected are buckwheat, grain corn, hop, oat, millet, soybean, aster, cosmos, dahlia, gladiolus, hollyhock, and zinnia.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** The young larvae like to feed on the whorl, the tassels of corn, the leaf sheath, and can mine the midribs and eat pollen. Additionally, they can feed on silk, kernels, cobs, and also enter the corn stalk and feed there. Larvae feeding causes a shot hole damage

pattern to the leaves. When the larvae are older they burrow into the stalk or go into the corn ear. Larvae tunneling can cause the corn stalks to break and allow pathogens to enter the plant. They can also break tassels and cause the corn ears to drop off the plant. As a result of tunneling, corn can have lodging problems.

#### **References:**

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European Corn Borer (n.d.). Purdue University. Field Crops IPM. Retrieved February 27, 2017 from: <https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/fieldcropsipm/insects/euro-cornborer.php>