Using New Jersey Trap Network Information to Reduce Sweet Corn Spray Costs

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For the 2007 growing season, northern New Jersey sweet corn growers were able to eliminate an average of 9 silk spray applications (36% reduction) by following schedule recommendations derived from the corn earworm (CEW) catches in the RCE Vegetable IPM Program blacklight network. This reduction is in comparison to the standard 3-day schedule that is typically followed in the absence of information on CEW activity. Using lambda-cyhalothrin (Warrior at $255/gal) as an example, a grower treating 10 acres of silking corn with each spray would save $50-75 per spray in insecticide alone, or a total of $450-675 during the course of the season. This does not include the savings related to the cost of diesel fuel needed to make the applications. If you are not currently in a scouting program or have a RCE Vegetable IPM Program blacklight trap on your farm, be sure to regularly access information regarding CEW activity either from the RCE Plant and Pest Advisory Newsletter – Vegetable Crops Edition, or from the pest maps posted on the Vegetable IPM website :
http://www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/IPM/Vegetable/Pest%20Maps/maparchive.htm