

D8-P

PEST STATUS OF SOUTHWESTERN CORN BORER AND SUGARCANE BORER IN CORN, GRAIN SORGHUM AND RICE IN LOUISIANA

*Boris A. Castro¹, B. Rogers Leonard², and Jack L. Baldwin¹

¹Department of Entomology, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, 402 Life Sciences Bldg., Baton Rouge, LA 70803, USA.

²Northeast Research Station, Macon Ridge Location, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, 212 Macon Ridge Rd., Winnsboro, LA 71295, USA

The southwestern corn borer (SWCB), *Diatraea grandiosella* Dyar, and sugarcane borer (SCB), *Diatraea saccharalis* (F.), have become increasingly important insect pests causing economic losses to the corn, grain sorghum, and more recently, to the rice industries in Louisiana. Both the SWCB and the SCB have been considered sporadic pests distributed throughout the State. However, recent mild winters aided by the rising adoption of reduced tillage practices have favored increased survival rates of overwintering larvae. SWCB and SCB populations build up to two generations in corn. When corn becomes less attractive for oviposition, adults move to late planted crops such as grain sorghum. As corn and sorghum are harvested, sugarcane borer eventually moves to infest available hosts such as late planted rice, especially in Central and Northeast Louisiana. A recent survey was conducted to assess the impact of both the SWCB and SCB in corn, grain sorghum and rice during the 2002 growing season. Results presented reveal the importance of SWCB and SCB in the central and northeastern areas of the State and the need of an integrated approach to manage both borer populations in Louisiana.