What should I do if I find Fall Armyworm damage?

Fall Armyworm is a pest that feeds on 80 types of plants and crops but can seriously damage maize.

Scientists have found Fall Armyworm in South Asia and expect this pest will damage farmers' fields.

After you have scouted for and found sufficient Fall Armyworm damage, how can you control it?

Mechanical Control

Scout your field and crush Fall Armyworm eggs and young larvae. This will reduce the pest population but not completely control Fall Armyworm.

If you have access to irrigation, flooding with a few centimeters of water can reduce Fall Armyworm numbers by drowning pupae. This method works best when many farmers irrigate at a similar time to reduces populations over a large area.

Use smart agronomy

- Avoid planting your field late.
- Plant your field early.

Use intercropping and increase the diversity of crops on and around your field.

- Manually weed your field. This will kill pupae and reduces populations in a similar way as irrigation.
Biologically-based insecticides

- Biologically-based insecticides include Bt, and Baculovirus-based biopesticides. *Spodoptera frugiperda* multiple nucleopolyhedrovirus is also effective and has a low-risk of killing beneficial insects. It makes Fall Armyworm sick and die.

- Encourage parasitoids that will lay eggs in Fall Armyworm egg masses and also in their larvae. When eggs hatch, they kill Fall Armyworm.

- Before spraying pesticides, let spiders, ants and parasitic insects work for you! Spiders and some wasps can kill Fall Armyworm. These insects are farmers’ friends and will kill Fall Armyworm for you.

- Spiders, ants, and many other insects will eat eggs and larvae of this pest.

Chemical control

**Important!**

You should only use chemical control if you have properly scouted your field, identified Fall Armyworm damage, and consulted with an extension agent or qualified advisor. Insecticides should only be applied by a trained professional.

- Spraying before you have scouted and identified or Fall Armyworm in your field is expensive and unlikely to be effective.

- Insecticides are a last resort to use after you try mechanical, agronomic, and biological control methods.

**Never spray pesticides when it is windy or when people or children are near your field.**

Store insecticides in a locked box outside your home. Keep insecticides out of the reach of children.

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