

# Neglecting To Scout For Wireworms May Be A Mistake

URBANA, ILL.

**L**arge infestations of wireworms in two separate Massac County fields have been reported this spring, said University of Illinois Extension entomologist Mike Gray.

“Ron Hines, an independent crop consultant in southern Illinois, has reported large infesta-

tions of wireworms in two separate fields devoted to no-till corn production in 2010,” Gray said. “Ron placed wireworm bait stations in both fields and after digging up the baits, detected an average of 35 wireworms per trap.”

“Rescue treatments are not an option,” he said. “Heavily infested fields often require replanting areas most affected due to significant stand reductions.”

The use of a soil insecticide is encouraged during replant operations, he added. Although insecticidal seed treatments confer some protection against wireworms, intense infestations may overwhelm the ability of seedlings to withstand feeding injury.

Prolonged wet soil conditions and cool temperatures tend to enhance the prospects for increased wireworm damage to cornfields. Wireworms will continue to feed in the seed zone as long as soil temperatures remain cool.

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Wireworm Larva



Wireworm Adult



Gray said the established threshold for wire-