



## Just say 'NO' to Planting in March...

I strongly encourage you to say 'NO' to that voice in your head beckoning you to plant a field or farm to corn or soybeans in March. I hate to sound like an 'old agronomist' but I'm an old agronomist and I say: "**WHY DO IT?**" What are you trying to prove? I'll bet anyone a case of your favorite malt beverage that you plant corn OR beans in March it's going to yield LESS! And everyone needs EVERY DOLLAR this year. It simply is not worth the risk.

**Corn rootworm winter survival** – There have been many questions about corn rootworm egg survival over the past several months. Especially when we had that one cold snap back in January. Unfortunately, they are a far more resilient pest than we would like. I have attached below a few facts on corn rootworm survival..

## Corn Rootworm Winter Survival Facts

- Northern corn rootworm (NCRW) can survive **cold soil temperatures** better than Western corn rootworm (WCRW)
- NCRW eggs are durable with up to 80% hatch rate of prolonged temperatures as low as .5 degrees vs. 16 degrees for WCRW (**WCRW eggs along with adult WCRW & NCRW pictured below**)
- Egg mortality is greater when subjected to intermittent freeze & thaw cycles
- Rootworm eggs are typically laid 3-6 inches deep. The deeper eggs are laid or buried by tillage survival is better
- Snow and residue insulate soil from extreme temps



## Tar Spot 2023 aka ... 'Tar Not'

A year ago at this time Tar Spot in corn was THE HOT TOPIC. On the heels of a intense 'yield robbing' pressure in much of southeast Minnesota everyone was poised for an encore performance in 2023. Yet mother nature had other plans in mind as environmental conditions that favor the disease did not develop. Central Iowa was as close to here that significant tar spot infestations occurred. Don't let down your guard. Should we get a return to more normal weather tar spot could be an issue again in 2024. Portions of Blue Earth, LeSueur, Waseca and Faribault counties did see late season development of tar spot in 2022.



**Tar spot overwinters** in corn residue. Since spores are known to travel up to 800 feet, tillage and rotation seem to have little effect on tar spot.

**Duration of leaf wetness (6-7 hours)** is one of the key factors in tar spot development.

**Yield potential of a field appears** to positively correlate with tar spot risk; high production = greatest severity in affected areas.

Scouting: **Tar spot can progress rapidly**

**Hybrid selection is #1 management followed by fungicide treatments**