'Baute-modified' corn growth stages for western bean cutworm scouting

Field Crops Entomology Program — MSU

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Since the movement of western bean cutworm into the Great Lakes region, there has been a renewed interest in scouting corn. WBC females are attracted to pre-tassel and tasseling corn for egg laying. As scouting for egg masses and larvae increased, better define corn growth stages, especially for research and efficacy trials were needed. The modified growth stage descriptions below were developed by Tracey Baute, the field crops entomologist with the Ontario Ministry of Ag, Food, and Rural Affairs. When using the scale, remember that the same corn plant may be in more than one stage. Thanks Tracey for the better scale!

STAGE	DESCRIPTION
Vegetative Stages	
VE	Emergence. No leaf collar
V1-Vx	Number of leaf collars visible, starting at 1 (V1) [the leaf collar is the light green band that separates the leaf blade from the leaf sheath, which wraps around the stem]
Whorl / Tasseling Stages	
VT1	Tassel has not yet emerged, but can be felt inside whorl
VT2	Tassel peaking out of whorl
VT3	Tassel spike fully extended
VT4	Tassel fully emerged with branches extended
Silk / Pollen Shed Stages	
R1	Silking. Silks emerge from ear tip
R1.2	Tassel beginning to shed pollen
R1.3	Entire tassel shedding pollen
R1.4	50% of anthers dried out, spent, or turning brown
Kernel Stages	
R2	Blister. Developing kernels are white 'blisters' on the cob, containing abundant clear fluid. Silks mostly brown and rapidly drying
R3	Milk. Kernels mostly yellow , containing milky white fluid
R4	Dough. Milky fluid in kernel changing to a doughy consistency as start accumulates in the endosperm.
R5	Dent. Most or all kernels are denting near their crown.
R6	Maturity. All kernels have reached maximum dry matter accumulation. Starch layer has moved completely to cob, visible as a black layer at the base of each kernel.