Stem Borers Attacking Sugarcane

**Mexican Rice Borer (MRB)**
*Eoreuma loftini*

**Sugarcane Borer (SCB)**
*Diatraea saccharalis*
Scouting for Borers

Pull back leaf sheaths of top three internodes and look for borer larvae.

Check 50-100 plants in each field, check in multiple places to cover whole fields.

Scout all fields late May-early September.

Check weekly when possible, susceptible varieties more frequently.

Hiring a certified crop consultant to scout all fields is recommended.
Scouting for Borers

External injury signs

SCB larva in sheath
Scouting for Borers

MRB ≠ SCB

Larvae often feed lower in the canopy
Eggs laid on dry leaves
Larvae move up

Enter into leaf tissues
More rapid stalk entry
Scouting research is ongoing
Drought stressed cane preferred by MRB
Scouting for Borers

Mexican Rice Borer Injury

MRB

SCB
Scouting for Borers

Mexican Rice Borer Injury
Scouting for Borers

Mexican Rice Borer Injury
When to spray?

Economic threshold: Spray if >3-5% of stalks infested with larvae in leaf sheaths.

Early season infestations are more damaging to yields

Applications after September 1st may not be beneficial.
What to spray?

All available products are effective. Prevathon is recommended for most situations.
## Stem Borer IPM

### Variety Resistance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Susceptible</th>
<th>Intermediate</th>
<th>Resistant</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HoCP 00-950</td>
<td>HoCP 07-613</td>
<td>L 01-299</td>
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<tr>
<td>HoCP 96-540</td>
<td>HoCP 07-613</td>
<td>HoCP 85-845</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ho 05-961</td>
<td>L 01-283</td>
<td>HoCP 04-838 (SCB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HoCP 04-838 (MRB)</td>
<td>L 03-371</td>
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<tr>
<td>L 11-183</td>
<td>HoCP 12-615</td>
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<td>L 12-201</td>
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Susceptible cultivars are often >5X more injured than resistant varieties when not protected.
Questions?

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