

Fast Facts: IRM Grower Survey

Background

- The annual Insect Resistant Management (IRM) Grower Survey for Corn Borer-Resistant Bt Field Corn is required under the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) registrations for Bt corn held by each of four registrants — Dow AgroSciences, Monsanto Company, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. and Syngenta Seeds, Inc.
- Conducted by an independent third party, the survey was commissioned on behalf of the Agricultural Biotechnology Stewardship Technical Committee (ABSTC).

Survey Objectives

- Designed specifically to measure adherence to IRM requirements, survey objectives include:
 - determining the level of adherence to the IRM requirements for Bt corn traits;
 - measuring changes in awareness of IRM requirements vs. the baseline;
 - and obtaining grower feedback for improvement of IRM awareness and compliance programs.

2006 Survey Highlights

- A vast majority of the growers surveyed are following refuge size and distance requirements for all Bt traits.
- Both unaided and aided awareness of IRM requirements remains high.
- Seed companies and dealers continue to be regarded as the most important sources of IRM information.
- More than 94% of Bt corn growers believe IRM is important.
- Bt corn growers received an average of three to four pieces of IRM information during the year.
- More than 92% of all growers say they have sufficient information to properly implement and manage a refuge.

Survey Methodology

- The survey was professionally designed to provide an unbiased evaluation of adherence by Bt corn growers to the IRM requirements. All respondents remain anonymous.
- The telephone survey was conducted during the 2006 growing season with corn growers across the corn and cotton belts.
- Respondents were identified:
 - as decision-makers who farmed a minimum number of corn and Bt corn acres;
 - and were not employed in the ag-chemical or seed industries.
- The survey questionnaire sequentially assessed:
 - Bt and non-Bt acreages;
 - the grower's actual refuge implementation practices;

- recall of specific refuge requirements on an unaided basis and aided awareness of the requirements with prompting;
- and feedback on information sources.

The Agricultural Biotechnology Stewardship Technical Committee (ABSTC):

- Members include Bt corn registrants:
 - Dow AgroSciences
 - Monsanto Company
 - Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.
 - Syngenta Seeds, Inc.
- ABSTC addresses issues associated with the stewardship of Bt corn.
- The National Corn Growers Association (NCGA), American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) and the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), along with various seed companies and universities, work with ABSTC to promote IRM awareness programs.
- For additional information on Bt corn and biotechnology, visit www.ncga.com.