

Section VII.
Foliage & Seed Feeding Insects

Cereal Leaf Beetle in Willamette Valley Sweet Corn

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The Cereal leaf beetle, Oulema melanopus L., was first recorded in the north Willamette Valley in 1999. By 2002, it had been detected in all counties in the Valley. The presence of this pest has triggered a California quarantine against Oregon agricultural products. Prohibited commodities include small grains, straw, hay, grass seed and ear corn. Last year a Marion County grower received a permit to ship fresh market sweet corn to California. Conditions of the permit included:

- Oregon Dept. of Agriculture (ODA) inspection of small grains within ¼ mi. of sweet corn fields.
- Sweet corn plantings monitored for CLB by a field consultant during the growing season.
- Chemical treatment of all sweet corn fields for CLB.
- Corn to be machine harvested, hydro-cooled, packed in ice and kept refrigerated in closed containers until shipment.
- All filters and screens in the hydro-cooler inspected regularly by an employee trained to recognize CLB life stages.
- Immediate notification of ODA, if any CLB life stages are found.
- Immediate notification of CA Dept. of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) by ODA, if "CLB pest risk introduction potential increase[s] for any reason."

Willamette Agricultural Consulting provided the field monitoring services required by this permit. Nine plantings of sweet corn were sampled for CLB, using a combination of visual inspection for CLB feeding scars and sweep net sampling for CLB adults. Samples were taken between silking and harvest and were concentrated along the edges of the fields. The first two plantings had CLB feeding scars on about 1% of the leaves; and one adult CLB was found in the first planting on 8/2/02. No CLB or feeding scars were found in the remaining seven plantings.

The detection of CLB was reported to ODA, as required, and relayed to CDFA. CDFA did not add any additional restrictions and sweet corn was shipped to CA under this permit.