



Choosing *Bt* trait packages

Overview

With so many *Bt* trait offerings on the market, it can be challenging to determine which package best fits your farm. Each package contains different combinations of traits with different levels of effectiveness against specific pests. Understanding best management practices is critical to ensuring control options for years to come.

What you should know

When selecting *Bt* trait packages for your corn, evaluate your situation and multiple factors, including current pressures and field history. Proper management will also ensure longevity of control options and greater economic gain.

Action steps

- 1. Assess your fields and those around you:** Gather information to help predict the level of pest pressure. Keep in mind that continuous corn acres are subject to higher pest populations. Evaluate the rotation of neighboring fields to understand which pests might move to your fields. Planting date history might reveal clues—significantly later plantings can cause the field to act as a trap crop and attract insects.
- 2. Ensure trait durability:** Use multiple modes of action and always follow refuge requirements.
- 3. Follow best management practices:**
 - When planting continuous corn, rotate to different insect protection traits each year or use a product with multiple modes of action.
 - When using a single mode of action against corn rootworm, use a soil-applied insecticide at full rate. High rootworm populations might require trait packages with multiple modes of below-ground control, coupled with a soil insecticide.
 - If corn rootworm beetles appear, consider spraying to avoid silk clipping and to reduce next year's population.
 - Avoid using the same trait more than three consecutive years.
- 4. Evaluate your level of control:** Scout your field throughout the growing season to determine the effectiveness of your management practices.



Selecting the right trait package helps protect yields. This photo compares conventional corn with corn rootworm injury (left) to corn protected by Bt traits (right).



30-Second Summary

- Selecting the right *Bt* trait package can help protect your corn yields.
- Understand the insect pressures in your fields and surrounding fields to make the right choice.
- Good management practices, including using multiple modes of action and rotating modes of action, will help keep traits durable.
- Always follow refuge requirements.

NOTES:

For more information, contact:



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