Scouting for European corn borer (Ostrinia nubilalis) in corn

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Appearance:

Eggs, larvae, and pupae:

- Eggs are white, flat, and overlapping similar to fish scales
- Before hatching, the black heads of the larvae are visible through the eggshell
- Eggs are deposited on the under side of corn leaves
- Larvae have black heads and cream bodies, with a four circular halo-like spots on each abdominal segment
- Larvae are approximately 2 cm in length in late summer
- Pupae are a reddish-brown colour, with a rounded cranial end and a pointed caudal end

Signs of infestation:



Female

Male

Moths:

- Moths are sexually dimorphic, with the females being lighter in colour than the males
- Both sexes have irregular, wavy lateral stripes on their forewings

Tassel:

- dropped tassels
- sawdust frass on stalk
- feeding damage in florets and anthers

Leaves:

- shothole and pinhole injury
- windowpaning
- bore holes and tunnels in mid-rib

Ears:

- bore holes and sawdust frass on leaves and kernels
- potential for ear drop if shank is tunneled through

Stalk:

 bore holes and tunnels with frass (white to brown in color) at the entrances



Image credits: Egg Masses: Manitoba Agriculture, European Corn Borer, manitoba.ca

Pupae: CABI Compendium, Ostrinia nubilalis (European maize borer), CABI Digital Library