

# What is Fall Armyworm and how can I scout for it in my field?

**1** Begin scouting your field soon after maize has emerged. Fall Armyworm prefers to feed at night. For this reason, scouting very early in the morning is best.

Fall Armyworm is a serious pest that can feed on over

**80 plants**

but prefers to eat maize.



Fall Armyworm is now found in South and East Asia and requires careful management to avoid crop damage.

By counting the number of maize plants with signs of damage, you can decide how to protect your crop.



**3** Egg masses are small and white colored.

1mm

Newly hatched and young larvae are about between 1 mm long. They grow to up to 45 mm as adults. **You will have more success in controlling Fall Armyworm when they are young.**

Larvae also leave behind waste when they feed.

**4** Leaf damage from young Fall Armyworm looks like small windows or pinholes chewed into leaves.

**6** Keep looking at least every 10 days for signs of Fall Armyworm damage.



The Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia (CSISA) was established in 2009. The project is led by the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) and implemented jointly with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). The content and opinions in this infographic do not necessarily reflect the views of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, USAID, or the United States Government, and shall not be used for advertising or product endorsement purposes. Correct citation: Krupnik, T.J. and Dhungana, H. 2019. What is Fall Armyworm and how can I scout for it in my field? CIMMYT and the CSISA project. Dhaka, Bangladesh. Design by [3CK](#)

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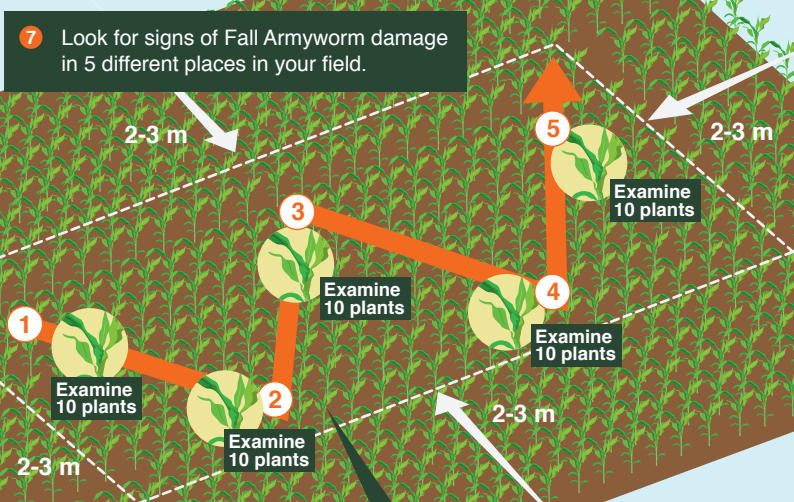


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- 7** Look for signs of Fall Armyworm damage in 5 different places in your field.



- 8** Stop in 5 places that are not on the sides of the field as shown in the image above.

- 10** Write down how many plants have Damage. Also record the number of plants that do not.

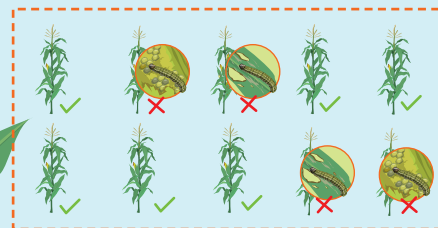


- 9** In each of the 5 places in your field, carefully examine 10 plants for signs of new Fall Armyworm damage. Next, count up the total number of plants out of 50 that have signs of new damage.



If more than 10 out of 50 young plants out have signs of fresh Fall Armyworm damage, consult with an extension agent or CIMMYT for pest management advice.

- 11** When maize is older, examine the top three leaves or cobs for signs of Fall Armyworm damage.



If more than 20 out of 50 older plants have counted have fresh Fall Armyworm damage, consult with an extension agent or CIMMYT. Be sure to only count plants with new damage.



- 12** If you have found enough Fall Armyworm damage in your field, consult with an extension agent for advice.



**More than 10**  
young plants out of 50  
plants surveyed.



**More than 20**  
older plants out of 50  
plants surveyed.

- 13** Ask the extension agent if it you have enough Fall Armyworm damage to justify use of insecticides. Only use insecticides as a last option. If rain is forecasted in the coming days, spraying may not be needed. But if you do choose to spray, only use insecticides that minimize environmental damage and risk to human health.

