



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension

Elements of IPM for Alfalfa and Field Corn in New York State

Practices	Points
GENERAL	
Test soil for fertilizer and pH recommendations:	
Every year	10
Every 2 years	7
Every 3 years	5
More than 3 years	1
Keep written field records:	
Pest levels	2
Pesticide Applications	2
Cultural pest management practices (planting date, rotation, harvest, etc.)	2
Crop variety or hybrid	2
Crop yields	2
Calibrate pesticide and fertilizer application equipment, sprayers and granular boxes:	
Pesticide sprayer (once a season)	10
Pesticide planter box (once a season)	10
FIELD CORN	
Monitor corn fields for pests:	
Once a week	10
Two or three times during growing season	3
Four or more times during growing season	5
During specific pest outbreaks	1
Make spring or fall weed inventories, or written map of fields used in weed management decisions	10

Review weed maps (of each field) before planting for the purpose of:	
Timing cultivation and/or rotary hoeing	1
Refining herbicide choice and selection	1
Evaluating pre-emergence herbicide program	1
Making post emergent treatment decisions	1
Identifying potential herbicide resistant weeds	1
Adjusting crop rotation sequence	1
Rotate corn fields, i.e., plant only in fields where sweet or field corn was not planted the previous year	10
Conduct Pre-sidedress nitrogen testing (PSNT) to decide if additional sidedress nitrogen is needed	3
Take plant population counts to evaluate stand establishment	3
ALFALFA	
Monitor alfalfa fields for pests:	
Once a week	10
Two or three times during the growing season	3
Four or more times during the growing season	5
During specific pest outbreaks	1
Make written maps of fields to use in evaluating crop condition, and pest (insect, weed and disease) status.	10
Take alfalfa crown counts to assess potential productivity of stands	3
Harvest field earlier than planned to avoid further damage by:	
alfalfa weevil	3
potato leafhopper	2
Total Maximum Points for both crops	110
Total Maximum Points for Corn	82
Total Maximum Points for Alfalfa	68

TO LEARN MORE...

Specific information about the use of these IPM elements can be found in the following publications:

[A Method to Measure the Environmental Impact of Pesticides.](#) 1992. New York Food and Life Sciences Bulletin Number 139.

The above reference material can be obtained from county Cornell Cooperative Extension offices.