



TIPS ON SCOUTING CALLALOO FIELDS FOR WORMS

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute, [Jamaica], [2006]



NB WORMS that feed on callaloo leaves are the young of small "BATS" seen flying around in your callaloo field

EGGS



Egg mass of armyworm covered with moth scales

WORMS



Leaf webber larva



Armyworm larva



Armyworm larva

WHY SCOUT FOR WORMS

- Worms are one of the most important pests of callaloo.
- Although many callaloo farmers use chemicals once per week, weekly spraying is not always necessary.
- Farmers can save money on labour costs and chemicals by reducing the number of sprays put on the crop.
- Worm attack can be seen early if the farmer walks through his callaloo plot regularly and looks on the leaves for eggs and worms.

"BATS"



Adult leaf webber



Adult armyworm

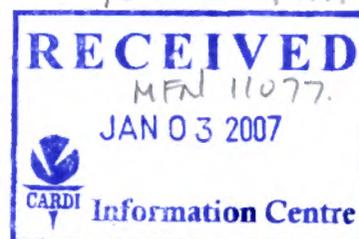


Adult armyworm

Looking on the plant for eggs and worms and other pests is called scouting



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HOW to scout for worms

- Learn how to identify all the stages of the pest (eggs, worms - small, medium and large, and adults - " bats ").
- Walk through your field at least once per week and look closely at the leaves of at least 10 plants per square of callaloo.

For each plant, search six leaves (three old and three new) and count the worms found.

WHEN to spray for worms

- If after looking at 10 plants you see 16 or more worms then you should spray your field that week.
- If you see 4 to 15 worms search another plant to be sure whether or not you need to spray.
- **If you find three worms or less you do not need to spray.**

WHAT to spray for worms

- If most of the worms in your field are the size of a "rice grain " use a safer insecticide, eg Dipel® or Agree®.
- For larger worms, a pesticide with quick knock-down action will have to be used for quicker results.
- Use only those pesticides that are recommended for use on callaloo.

IMPORTANT NOTE

- Always wear protective gear when applying pesticides.
- You can use the number of "BATS " flying to know when to expect an increase in the number of worms in your field.
- " Bats " lay worm eggs, which hatch in two days to a week.

