

# FACT SHEET



## FALL ARMYWORM LARVA ON CORN

Image courtesy of Phil Sloderbeck, Kansas State University, Bugwood.org.



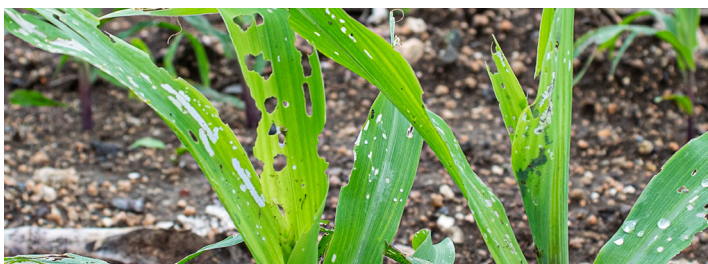
## FALL ARMYWORM MOTH (ADULT)

Image courtesy of Robert J. Bauernfeind, Kansas State University, Bugwood.org.



## FALL ARMYWORM LARVA ON MAIZE

Images courtesy of Shutterstock.



## DAMAGE TO CORN CROP

Images courtesy of Shutterstock.

The fall armyworm (FAW; *Spodoptera frugiperda*) is one of Australia's most unwanted exotic pests. It attacks more than 350 plant species in several families. Affected vegetable crops include sweet corn, beetroot, tomato and potato.

If FAW invades Australia, it could threaten our horticulture and grains industries, and cause significant economic and environmental harm.

**Help protect our industries by keeping an eye out for the fall armyworm!**

## WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION

FAW is a pest native to tropical and sub-tropical regions of the Americas. Since 2016, it has rapidly spread to 44 countries across Africa and several countries across Asia including China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Indonesia.

## HOW COULD IT GET TO AUSTRALIA?

Adult FAW are avid fliers and have been recorded flying distances up to 500 km. Likewise, Australia has multiple trade and transportation routes connected to the countries where FAW has already established itself, which may increase its chances of crossing out shores.

Fall armyworm is likely to find the Australian environmental conditions supportive to its establishment.

## WHAT DAMAGE DOES IT CAUSE?

FAW causes damage by consuming foliage and attacking the plant's reproductive structures.

In tomatoes, FAW damage can result in premature drop and fruit rot.

In corn, larvae can cause such heavy defoliation that feeding damage decimates everything except the stalk.

**If you suspect FAW in your crop, report it to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.**

For more information, contact Madeleine Quirk at AUSVEG on 03 9882 0277.