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Virginia commercial sweet corn growers were surveyed to gather baseline information on their current pest management practices. Surveys were disseminated at various vegetable grower meetings held in Virginia from 2016-2017 as well as administered electronically via e-mail link to a Qualtrics survey. A total of 35 growers completed the survey representing 22 different counties in Virginia or North Carolina.

Survey results

- 43% of growers use transgenic (GMO) sweet corn hybrids containing the Bt (Bacillus thuringiensis) gene to control lepidopteran larvae, particularly corn earworm, which is the major insect pest attacking sweet corn in Virginia.
- 35% of growers stated that they utilize integrated pest management practices including scouting for pests. Scouting typically involved visually inspecting plants for insects or damage, and not pheromone traps.
- The vast majority of growers sprayed insecticides to protect their sweet corn from insect pests, averaging about 2.5 applications per crop.
- Pyrethroids were the predominant insecticide class used with Asana XL (esfenvalerate), lambda-cyhalothrin (including Warrior II and other generic formulations), Baythroid XL (beta cyfluthrin), permethrin, Tombstone (cyfluthrin), and bifenthrin all being popular choices (Fig. 2).
- The diamide insecticide Coragen, which is a more IPM- and pollinator-friendly insecticide option, was used by 29% of growers.

### Percentage of growers using specific insecticides on sweet corn in Virginia - 2016

- Asana XL (esfenvalerate)
- Lambda-cyhalothrin (various formulations)
- Coragen (Rynaxypyr)
- Baythroid XL (beta cyfluthrin)
- Permethrin
- Tombstone (cyfluthrin)
- Lannate (methomyl)
- Bifenthrin (various formulations)