

# Scouting Protocol

## Monitoring Fields for Slug Damage

### *Plant Injury Rating*

- Scouting should begin as soon as plants emerge from the ground and continue until corn or soybean reach the V-5 growth stage. It will be more critical to evaluate soybeans as they emerge from the ground than corn.
- Scouting should be done weekly on each field.
- The field should be divided into four equal quadrants. The scout should quantify slug damage on one 10 ft row per quadrant (4 per field). The scouting report needs to specify the general location of each measurement site
- Count the total number of plants and record the growth stage of the plants. Rate plant injury on each plant on a 0-4 scale. Estimate the portion of plants with different injury ratings. For example half of the plants have an injury rating of 1, one quarter are at injury rating 2 and one quarter are at injury rating 4.

Rating Scale : 0= no damage ; 1= only one leaf showing damage ( less than 25% defoliation) ; 2= all leaves showing moderate damage ( 25 – 50% defoliation) 3= all leaves consumed except one remaining intact (greater than 75% defoliation) 4= seedling completely cut off at the ground level.



Injury Rating 1: Note most recent emerged leaves are not damaged.  
Corn has been growing faster than slugs are consuming leaves.



**Injury Rating 2: Unclear if corn is (or will ) grow faster than slug feeding pressure. Cool cloudy weather will slow corn growth and slugs may still kill this plant.**



**Injury Rating 2: The early growth stage of this plant combined with the slug feeding makes it more critical to re-check this field quickly than the field above.**



**All Pictures on this Page  
are a Injury Rating 3.  
Slugs are clearly eating the  
plant as fast as it is grow-  
ing.**





**If one in ten soybean cotyledons are showing this type of feeding injury then the field should be treated.**



**All Pictures on this Page area Injury Rating 4**



**This seedling Soybean Plant will not survive because the growing point is above the injured stem. Immediate slug control may be warranted to save other emerging plants.**

**All Pictures on this Page are an Injury Rating 4**



**These two corn seedlings recovered (with the assistance of a slug bait application followed by 2 or 3 nights of no rain).**