



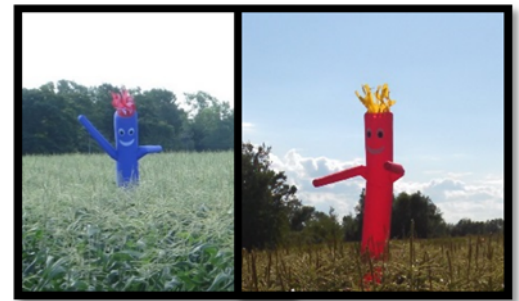
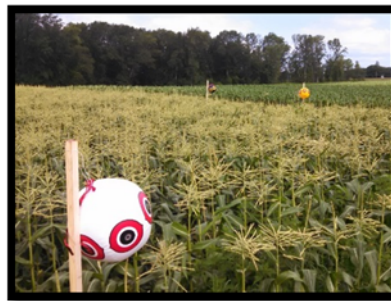
Evaluation of Novel Bird Repellants in Vegetable Crops Darcy Telenko and Robert Hadad

August 19, 2015

We have been evaluating three techniques in four locations in western NY – Randsomeville, Eden (2 locations) and Belfast.

Treatments:

1. Avian Control (methyl anthranilate) 32 oz/A- a chemical deterrent, ~\$19/acre/application.
2. Mylar helium filled hawk balloon – a current, low-cost option \$10.50/balloon
3. Air dancer – a tall, foreboding presence that jumps up noisily shaking all over to scare off the birds, but will cost approximate \$862 the first year to set up and run.



Update on the 2015 Research Projects:

- Bird activity was noted around July 20 at all four locations
- Treatments were placed in ripening sweet corn fields on July 22 and July 23
- Biweekly evaluations of bird activity and damage
- We hope to wrap up the final fields by August 25

Some general trends we have seen:

- Initial bird damage was high – 86% damaged ears in one location; 10% where farmer was using other scare tactics – birds were flying over treatment site to this field (black birds and starlings).
- Cooperating growers felt like some of the treatments were keeping the birds at bay, so we moved into new fields as sweet corn ripened
- In small scale sweet corn the balloons seem to keep birds out 50x50 ft space
- Avian 32 oz/A applied twice starting at 50% brown silk may look to be a good option for large scale – need further trials to determine best application timing
- Air dancer will also work in small scale operations – moved to areas where birds likely to enter field – those closest to wood line and/or ponds.
- These treatments may not provide 100% control but so far look to help reduce damage in areas where birds are an annual problem
- Still collecting yield information but it looks like Avian treated sites are seeing less than 5% damage and in many locations less than 1% damaged ears.



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