

# Integrating pests into crop models

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## **Crop models**



Simulate plant development, dry-matter accumulation and yield based on observed soil and weather data



## **Crop models**



Simulate plant development, dry-matter accumulation and yield based on observed soil and weather data



# **Crop model development**



- Developed based on experiments that run under optimal conditions
- Need to know the plant phenologic development and dry matter development under optimal conditions
- No drought stress
- No heat stress
- No N limitation
- > No pests



Images: Pioneer.com, theorganicfarmer.com, NASA.gov

# **Coupling points of pests**

#### At the level of:

- Inputs
  - > Water, light, nutrient
- Rate processes
  - Photosynthesis, transpiration water uptake, senescence
- State variables
  - Number of organs, mass of tissues





#### Assimilate sappers



Whitefly Aleyrodidae **Aphids** *Aphidoidea* 



→ Assimilate (C and N) removal as function of pest number or activity

Images: tamu.edu, Wikipedia



#### Assimilate sappers

#### Tissue consumers





Potato beetle Leptinotarsa decemlineata

Cotton bollworm Helicoverpa zea

 $\rightarrow$  Tissue type, rate and timing of consumption

Images: J. Hahn mnu.edu; extension.missouri.edu



- > Assimilate sappers
- Tissue consumers
- Stand reducers



Black cutworm Agrostis ipsilon





**Stripped stem borer** *Chilo suppressalis* 

→ Number (share) & distribution of lost plants + timing (compensation)

Images: A. Sisson, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org; Sreepatra.com



- > Assimilate sappers
- Tissue consumers
- Stand reducers
- Photosynthetic rate reducers





Tomato ringspot virus Secoviridae

 $\rightarrow$  Level of pest infection on photosynthetic light response curve

Image: msue.anr.msu.edu; M. Grabowski, UMN Extension



- > Assimilate sappers
- Tissue consumers
- Stand reducers
- Photosynthetic rate reducers
- Leaf senescence accelerators



→ Added to other senecence drivers (self-shading, aging, drought, N-limitation)

Images: commons.wikimedia



- > Assimilate sappers
- Tissue consumers
- Stand reducers
- Photosynthetic rate reducers
- Leaf senescence accelerators
- Light stealers

**Powdery mildew** *Blumeria graminis* 



→ Number, distribution, height and leaf area of weeds (or damaged crop leaves)



- Assimilate sappers
- Tissue consumers
- Stand reducers
- Photosynthetic rate reducers
- Leaf senescence accelerators
- Light stealers
- Turgor reducers



Verticillium wilt

 $\rightarrow$  Rate of feeding and secondary tissue death

#### Challenges



- Single pest often damages via several categories
- Quantify amount of damage per unit or number of pest
- Crucial for predicting yield effect of different pests

### **Example ex-post pest integration**



- Effect of late leaf spot disease (Cercosporidium personatum)
- > Necrotic lesions  $\rightarrow$  photosynthesis $\downarrow$  + leaf senescence $\uparrow$
- > PNUTGRO
- Coupling: diseased leaf area + defoliation damage
- UFGA8701.pnx



<u>File Data Model Help</u>





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DSSAT Version 4.5.0.0



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Time Series Plot									
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Variables		Runs							
□ Leaf number per stem(L#SD)	^ ☑1	87-GOOD LEAFS	SPOT CONTR,IR						
Growth stage(GSTD)	₹2	NO LEAFSPOT (	CONTROL, IRRI						
Leaf area index(LAID)									
Stem weight (kg [dm]/ha)(SWAD)									
Grain weight (kg [dm]/ha)(GWAD)									
Root weight (kg [dm]/ha)(RWAD)									
□ Lops weight (kg [dm]/ha)(CWAD)									
Unit grain weight (mg [dm]/grain)(G	WGD)								
Harvest index (grain/top)(HIAD)	,								
Pod weight (kg [dm]/ha)(PWAD)									
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□ Nitrogen stress factor (0-1)(NSTD)									
Excess Water Stress - (0-1)(EWSD)									
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### Summary and outlook





# Summary and outlook



- Define how pests damage crops
- Ex-post integration of pest damage possible
- But not sufficient
- Dynamic modelling of crops and pests and their interactions
- Consideration of canopy microclimate