

Crop scouting form

Map of Scouted Areas

Crop _____

Date _____

Your name _____

Plant height
(avg 10 plants)

Soil (Circle one of each)
Temperature—wet, moist, dry
Condition—loose, light crust,
hard crust

Weather (Circle one of each)
Air temperature—cool, warm, hot
Wind—calm, light, strong
Cloud cover—partly sunny, cloudy,
rainy

Name of insects found	Is it causing damage?	Number per area scouted						Total	Percent of corn/soybean plants affected
		1	2	3	4	5	%		
1. _____									
2. _____									
3. _____									
4. _____									
5. _____									
6. _____									

Name of disease Symptoms found	Number of plants affected					
1. _____						
2. _____						
3. _____						
4. _____						
5. _____						
6. _____						

Name of weeds found	Number per square yard or per square meter						Average number/m ² or yd ²
1. _____							
2. _____							
3. _____							
4. _____							
5. _____							
6. _____							

Plant population	Number of good plants*						Avg. pop.
1. _____							

Description and Comments:

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

4H-382-A | Revised | June 1986

Scouting Instructions

1. Select one or more of the crop pests to scout. The scouting schedule tells you about when you should begin scouting for each. Scout the same field throughout the season.
2. Choose five areas at random to scout in the field. These areas should be away from the edges of the field; Also avoid waterways and drainage areas to get a true picture of the pest level.
3. Go out into the field when your crop is young. Mark the five different areas with bright colored plastic flags or stakes. Mark off 20 plants in each area. To help relocate your areas each time, make a map of how many rows each area is from the edge of the field and how many paces you have to walk into the field to get to each area. Also, you could tie a bright colored cloth on the fence at the end of the row where each area is located.
4. Record your findings on the Scouting Form. Additional copies are available at your county Extension office.
5. How to fill out the Scouting Form.
 - a. Record your year in this activity.
 - b. Record the date you scout the field. Use a separate form for each scouting trip. Record all five areas of the field on one form.
 - c. In each of the five areas, measure the height of 10 plants from soil to the extended leaf tip and record the average height in inches.
 - d. Circle the soil conditions and weather conditions at the time of scouting.
 - e. The insects and disease symptoms found should be recorded in those sections of the form. Record the number of insects found for the 20 plants in each area. For diseases, record the number of plants showing a particular disease symptom.
 - f. To determine the percent of plants affected, divide the total number of each organism by the total number of plants examined and then multiply by 100 and record this figure.

Example: Number plants cut or fed on by black cutworms:

Area:	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Total number of plants in all 5 areas	Percent of crop affected
	3	2	5	1	0	11	100	11

$$11/100 = .11 \times 100 = 11\%$$

6. For the weeds section of the Scouting Form you will need one square meter or square yard section in each of the five areas. Count the number of weeds in those sections. Record your findings on the Scouting Form. Total the number found from the 5 areas; divide by 5 to get the average number of weeds per square meter or square yard.
7. Be sure to mark the areas scouted for weeds on the map on the form. This map represents only one field. It has been divided into four sections to help you map where to scout each time.
8. Describe damage symptoms, and write any other comments you want to make in the space for description and comments at the bottom of the form.

Note: The scouting techniques listed here have been simplified. If you want more specific scouting details, use Extension publications that are available for many of the common crop pests. Check with your county Extension agriculture staff person for the publications.