

INFESTATION BY INSECTS IN THE SYSTEMS OF CORN STORED IN MEXICO

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ABSTRACT

Grain storage problems in Mexico are important due to the lack of adequate storage facilities in rural areas, especially in those where weather conditions are favorable for insect infestation. The purpose of this research was to study the population fluctuation of primary and secondary corn insects in grain received between 1978 and 1979 by "Silos Miguel Aleman" a State enterprise which receives about 60-70% of the total corn production in Mexico, also to determine levels of insect infestation of corn stored in different areas of the country.

During the period of study two peaks of high infestation were found: one in June mostly by primary insects, and the other in September mainly secondary pests.

The average number of insects/ton varied from 8,000 to 10,000 during the study period, and the highest infestations were found along the Pacific coast from Sinaloa to Oaxaca and, on the Gulf coast, in northern Veracruz and southern Tamaulipas. The high levels of infestation are primarily due to adequate climatic conditions for insect development and to deficient rural storage systems for corn.