

Help with plant protection

!! The European corn borer is a butterfly. According to FAO estimates, its caterpillars destroy around 4% of the maize harvest every year, causing enormous economic damage!!!



Drones are also used for plant protection measures. For example, for the application of beneficial insects: many farms now fly over their maize fields to apply

The wasps regularly drop capsules containing eggs of the *Trichogramma ichneumon* wasp. These wasps are natural antagonists of the dreaded European corn borer. It only takes around four minutes per hectare to apply the beneficial insects using the drone. Previously, the beneficial insects were applied by hand, which took around five times as long.

Even the application of liquid pesticides can now be carried out using drones. Modern devices are capable of transporting up to 16 litres of spray agent. This type of application is particularly useful in rough terrain where it is difficult to reach with tractors or on foot - steep vineyards are an example of this. In Japan, this form of application with drones is already widespread in rice cultivation. In Germany, drones may not yet be used to apply plant protection products for purely legal reasons. Appropriate authorisation procedures are currently underway (8/2021).

(Source: <https://www.landwirtschaft.de/landwirtschaft-verstehen/wie-funktioniert-landwirtschaft-heute/wofuer-braucht-man-drohnen-in-der-landwirtschaft>)