



The University of Georgia

Cooperative Extension Service

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences



Georgia Cotton

August 9, 2005

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CROP SITUATION AND LATE SEASON CONCERNS. (*Jost*) According to the National Agriculture Statistics Service the Georgia cotton crop is currently rated as 74% good or excellent. While the extreme heat encountered in the past weeks has somewhat took its toll, the recent rains have really pushed the crop along. Some boll and square shed has been noted but for the most part does not appear to be the issue that it is in other southern states. Overall we are looking at a good crop.

One issue that always arises this time of year is late applications (cut-out) of mepiquat. They often “look” good, but Georgia research to date has not shown any yield benefit to these treatments. There are definitely fields that still need treatment with mepiquat, especially those planted late. However, this product offers the most benefit at the initiation of squaring and during the first several weeks of bloom.

We are also getting close to defoliation. Attached to this newsletter is the latest version of the UGA defoliation recommendations. These recommendations can also be found on the Cotton Web Page at www.uga.com.

Two other issues are concerns with the control of pigweed in Roundup Ready Cotton and fiber quality. See the posting on the Cotton Web Page for the latest on the pigweed issue. Concerning fiber quality, the things we can do at this point to preserve fiber quality include controlling boll-feeding bugs and timely harvest. No doubt with the abundance of peanuts timely harvest will be a challenge.

SYMPTOMS OF NEMATODE DAMAGE APPEAR IN FIELDS. (*Kemerait*) Parasitic nematodes of cotton are an important and widespread problem in Georgia. By this time of the season (boll formation) it is much too late to treat with a nematicide; however growers can begin to take steps

to prepare for the crop next season. The only management tool left for many growers is to “pamper” the crop with irrigation and and proper fertility to reduce the stresses placed on the crop by a compromised root system.

Symptoms of damage caused by nematodes, to include stunting, distinctive interveinal chlorosis, root galling, and perhaps premature cutout, become increasingly apparent as the season progresses. Growers can identify a nematode problem in their field, and the extent of the problem, by scouting for these symptoms and by collecting “troubleshooting” soil samples for analysis at a nematode analysis lab.

With this information, growers can place greater emphasis on the need for effective crop rotation or the use of appropriate nematicides in the 2006 season. In addition, if growers map these areas in a field, they may be able to spot-treat the trouble spots with higher levels of nematicides.

WHEN CAN WE TERMINATE INSECTICIDE APPLICATIONS? (Roberts) The answer to this question depends on identifying the last harvestable boll which will significantly contribute to yield. Once identified, these bolls need to be protected from insects until they are relatively “safe” from damage by insects. The duration or length of time bolls need to be protected varies by insect species. The table below list selected insect pests and accumulated DD60s past white bloom (and approximate boll age in days) which bolls need to be protected. It is assumed that the field is relatively insect pest free when the decision to terminate insecticide applications is made.

Insect Pest(s)	DD60s past white bloom	Approx. Boll Age (days)
Plant Bugs	250	12
Corn Earworm Tobacco Budworm	350	18-20 bolls fully sized
Stink Bugs	450	25
Fall Armyworm	bolls mature	bolls mature
Foliage Feeders soybean looper beet armyworm southern armyworm	bolls mature	bolls mature
Sucking Insects whiteflies aphids	harvest (honeydew accumulation on lint)	harvest (honeydew accumulation on lint)

TROPICAL SPIDERWORT CONTINUES SPREADING ACROSS GEORGIA. (Culpepper). Over the past four weeks, tropical spiderwort infestations have been confirmed in four “new” Georgia

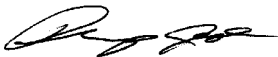
counties. This weed continues to spread across our state and is now confirmed to be present in over 32 Georgia counties.

Tropical spiderwort is clearly Georgia's most troublesome weed in cotton. The only successful program is the one that inhibits tropical spiderwort from infesting a given area. After tropical spiderwort has infested an area for a couple of years it will rapidly spread throughout the field and possibly the local area. Grower as well as University of Georgia scientists, are struggling in an effort to control this weed economically. A Cooperative Extension Circular (884) has been developed by the University of Georgia Weed Team to provide timely information on this weed. The circular can be found at gaweed.com under "Tropical Spiderwort".

Growers who have not had to deal with this pest are urged to visit the web site to view photographs of tropical spiderwort so they can catch it as it moves into their area. And, it is likely just a matter of time before most of our growers have to deal with this very troublesome pest. Tropical spiderwort emergence has been extremely intense over the past four weeks and has likely emerged if it is infesting a given area.

MIDVILLE FIELD DAY (Jost) The annual field day at the Southeast Research and Education Center in Midville will be held again this year. This will be primarily a cotton and soybean field day. Topics will include replant decisions, variety trials, nematode management, pest management, plant growth regulators, weed management, and defoliants. The field day will be held August 25, 2005 beginning at 9:00 a.m. **Please RSVP to 912-681-5639 by August 19 so that arrangements can be made for the meal.**

Your local County Extension Agent is a source of more information on these subjects.
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