

May 13, 2005

COTTON PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER #1

COTTON SITUATION: The Georgia Weekly Weather and Crops Report for the week ending May 8th listed the crop as 19 percent planted which is slightly below the five year average of 37 percent. To date only a small percentage of the crop has emerged. Early planted cotton has struggled due to cool and wet conditions. Cotton planting is in high gear this week.

INSECT SITUATION: Early planted cotton has developed slowly up to this point and is exhibiting thrips injury. However, slow growth, sand blasting, and perhaps cold damage in a few cases confounds the observed injury. A few grasshoppers have been observed in some strip tillage fields.

Scout Schools: The annual cotton scout school will be held in Tifton on Monday June 6, 2005. As in years prior, pre-registration and a \$7.00 registration fee is required. Additional cotton scout schools are also planned at other locations. The dates, location, and contact for each are listed below.

June 6, 2005	RDC, Tifton- <i>Debbie Rutland</i> (229/386-3424), pre-registration required
June 18, 2005	Terrell Co. Ext. Office, Dawson- <i>Will Duffie</i> (229/995-2165)
June 21, 2005	Jeff Davis Co., Hazelhurst- <i>Tim Varnedore</i> (912/375-6648)
June 28, 2005	SE GA Res.& Ed. Center, Midville- <i>Richard McDaniel</i> (706/554-2119)

Thrips: Slow seedling growth has extended the susceptible window of early planted cotton to thrips. Seedlings are susceptible to thrips up to the 4-5 leaf stage. Treatment for thrips is rarely necessary once seedlings reach the 5 leaf stage and are growing vigorously. When plants are developing slowly, we often observe greater thrips injury, even if preventive insecticides are controlling thrips. Adult thrips are constantly migrating into fields and must feed on the plant to ingest a lethal dose. When plants are developing slowly, migrating thrips will feed on the same unfurled leaf for several days which will exhibit crinkling and distortion once it unfolds. In some early planted fields that are developing slowly, it is likely that the preventive insecticide used at planting will not provide enough residual control to get seedlings to the 5 leaf stage. Seed treatments such as Cruiser and Gaucho will provide thrips control for about 3 weeks, Temik will provide thrips control for 4 to 5 weeks (rate dependant).

Other Potential Early Season Pests: Be sure to monitor establishing stands for cutworms and grasshoppers. Both of these pests are typically associated with reduced tillage systems.

Refuge Update: Below is information provided by Monsanto concerning Bollgard and Bollgard II IRM requirements. These changes occurred due to significant damage occurring on refuge acres in parts of Texas and Louisiana from cabbage looper. It is rare for seedling cotton in Georgia to require treatment for foliage feeding caterpillars.

Regulatory Update

Bollgard and Bollgard II Cotton 2005 IRM Requirements Changed by the EPA

May 11, 2005

On Monday, May 9th, the EPA approved changes to refuge requirements for Bollgard and Bollgard II cotton. These changes will allow insecticidal sprays on the 5 percent refuge in both the embedded and external 95/5 cotton refuge options for control of lepidopteron, but *only* through the pre-squaring stage of development.

These IRM changes are good news for producers and crop advisors who have been seeking options to effectively manage the increased infestations of cabbage loopers that threaten the stand in young cotton planted for refuge this year. The new IRM requirements will give cotton producers options for managing these lepidopteron populations in refuges, while continuing to maintain the effectiveness of the 5% refuge.

The timing of application of the insecticidal sprays is limited to the pre-squaring stage of development of the cotton because the plant is not considered to be a significant host for the cotton bollworm, tobacco budworm, or pink bollworm at this stage. Therefore, the application of the foliar spray will not impact these insect populations, thus managing the potential for resistance development as originally designed in the stewardship plan.

These changes by the EPA are supplemental to the 2005 Bollgard and Bollgard II Insect Resistance Management (IRM) Guide and Technology Use Guide (TUG). All other practices in these 2005 guides must be followed as indicated, including the guidelines for the 20% Sprayed Refuge option which remains unchanged.

Producers should consult their crop advisors for specific recommendations and implementation plans for their individual cotton operations.

Note: Bollgard and Bollgard II are registered trademarks of Monsanto Technology LLC.

INSECT UPDATES: Check the **Cotton Insect Hotline (1-800-851-2847)** for updates on current insect conditions. The Cotton Pest Management Newsletter is also posted on the UGA Cotton Homepage at: <http://www.ugacotton.com>

Sincerely,

Phillip Roberts
Extension Entomologist

May 13, 2005

COTTON PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER #1 (addendum)

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Phillip Roberts
Extension Entomologist