

May 26, 2005

***COTTON PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER #2***

**COTTON SITUATION:** The Georgia Weekly Weather and Crops Report for the week ending May 22<sup>nd</sup> listed the crop as 61 percent planted which is about 10 percent behind the five year average. The Boll Weevil Eradication Program estimated intended cotton acreage as of May 10, 2005 at 1.35 million acres.

**INSECT SITUATION:** Thrips are the primary insect pests observed in fields at this time. Thrips populations range from light to moderate depending on location, however we have observed some thrips injury due to slow plant growth.

**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.

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| 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>Roosevelt McWilliams</i> (706/554-2119) |

**Thrips:** To date thrips numbers have not been high, however we have observed some injury (crinkled distorted leaves). Some foliar sprays are being made but growers should use caution to only treat thrips with foliar insecticides when needed. It is tempting to automatically add a thrips insecticide with your glyphosate sprays; however the insecticide could flare other pests such as spider mites or aphids. The greatest yield loss from thrips injury occurs on small (1-2 leaf) slow growing seedlings. Treatment for thrips is rarely necessary once plants reach the 5 leaf stage and are growing vigorously. The recommended threshold for thrips is 2-3 thrips per plant, especially if wingless or immature thrips are found. The presence of immature thrips suggests that the preventive insecticide used at planting is failing. Immature thrips are crème colored and can often be found feeding in the terminal.



**Untreated cotton, light to moderate thrips injury.**



**Cotton treated with a preventive at plant insecticide, no thrips injury.**

**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