



The University of Georgia  
**Cooperative Extension**  
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

May 29, 2008

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

**COTTON SITUATION:** The Georgia Weekly Crop Progress and Condition Report for the week ending May 25<sup>th</sup> listed the crop as 68 percent planted which is similar to the 5 year average of 71 percent.

**INSECT SITUATION:** Thrips numbers have been moderate to high in most areas, especially on late April and early May planted cotton. Foliar sprays have been needed for thrips in some areas. We continue to receive reports of grasshoppers and seedling injury in some conservation tillage fields. On a side note, a few County Agents have commented that they are seeing more stink bugs in both wheat and field corn compared with recent years.

**Thrips:** Thrips populations have been moderate to heavy depending on location. On early planted cotton, foliar treatments have been needed in some areas regardless of which at plant insecticide was used. Foliar sprays for thrips should be applied on an as needed basis. Seedlings become more tolerant to thrips injury as they develop, it is unlikely that a foliar thrips spray will be needed once seedlings reach the 5-leaf stage and are growing rapidly. We would expect thrips populations and injury to be lower on cotton planted in late May and June; however fields should be monitored closely for thrips and injury.



The pictures above illustrate the value of an at-plant insecticide for thrips control. Although some thrips injury is visible where a preventive insecticide was used at planting (plot 102), damage in the untreated (plot 101) is severe. Tift Co. May 27, 2008, 4 weeks after planting.

**Grasshoppers:** Grasshoppers continue to be reported from some areas in reduced tillage fields. Be observant for grasshoppers when planting and walking fields. Fields infested with grasshoppers should be monitored closely. Control of grasshoppers is recommended when plant damage is occurring, grasshoppers are present, and plant stands are threatened. Nymph (wingless) grasshoppers are relatively easy to control with insecticides. However control of adult (winged) grasshoppers is more difficult. High rates of labeled pyrethroids have performed fair to good on adults (control of adults or “flyers” is difficult). Dimilin, which is an insect growth regulator, provides good control of nymphal grasshoppers and has provided good residual activity in field demos, but it takes a few days to cause mortality. Dimilin will not control adult grasshoppers.



Grasshopper feeding on the main stem of a cotton seedling (top), damaged seedling and “cut: seedling (bottom left), adult grasshopper (bottom right).

**Cotton Scout Schools:** Cotton insect scouting schools are annually held at various locations in Georgia. These programs offer basic information on cotton insects and scouting procedures and will serve as a review for experienced scouts and producers and as an introduction to cotton insect monitoring for new scouts. Programs for each Cotton Scout School may be found at <http://ugacotton.com> .

Credits for training toward pesticide applicator recertification for the Cotton Scout Schools: Commercial (Category 21): 2 hrs., Private: 2 hrs.

<b>Location</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Contact for additional information</b>
Tifton Campus Conference Center	Tifton GA	June 2, 2008	9:00 am -12:30pm	Debbie Rutland (229) 386-3424
Southeast Research and Education Center	Midville GA	June 24, 2008	9:00 am -12:30pm	Roosevelt McWilliams (706) 554-2119

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

Sincerely,

Phillip Roberts  
Extension Entomologist

Putting knowledge to work

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