



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

June 6, 2012

COTTON PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER #1

COTTON SITUATION: The weekly Georgia Crop Progress & Condition Report for the week ending June 4th listed the crop as 92 percent planted and 10 percent squaring; crop conditions were rated 41 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. The full report can be found at http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Georgia/Publications/Crop_Progress_and_Condition/index.asp. For the most part, cotton is off to a good start.

INSECT SITUATION: Not much reported in terms of insect pest during recent days. Thrips have been spotty this spring but populations are generally low at this time. Scouts are reporting aphid hot spots in some fields. Be sure to monitor retention in squaring cotton and be observant for plant bugs. A few isolated reports of false chinch bugs, white margined burrower bugs, and grasshoppers have been reported in recent weeks. Beneficial insects such as big-eyed bugs are moving into squaring fields.

Cotton Scout Schools: Cotton insect scouting schools are conducted in Tifton and Midville each year. 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. Hiring a scout is money well spent.

Location	City	Date	Time	Contact for additional information
Tifton Campus Conference Center	Tifton GA	June 11, 2012	9:00 am -12:30pm	Debbie Rutland (229) 386-3424
Southeast Research and Education Center	Midville GA	June 19, 2012	9:00 am -12:30pm	Peyton Sapp (706) 554-2119

- 9:00 WELCOME
- 9:05 COTTON GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT
- 9:30 INSECT SCOUTING PROCEDURES
- 9:40 LARVAL INSECT PESTS
- 10:10 BREAK
- 10:25 BUG PESTS
- 10:55 NATURAL CONTROLS
- 11:15 SAFETY
- 11:35 FIELD TRIP
- 12:30 ADJOURN - Have a safe trip home

Thrips: Thrips populations are low in most areas. Seedlings remain susceptible to thrips injury until plants reach the 4-leaf stage and are growing rapidly. When monitoring fields for injury

look primarily at newly formed leaves which are expanding. We would not expect any additional foliar thrips sprays to be needed if a preventive at-plant insecticide was used; but the only way to know for sure is to scout fields.

Aphids: We began picking up initial infestations of aphids in some fields during the last week. Winged female aphids fly into fields and begin giving birth to living aphids that will remain wingless. Within a week, these wingless females will also begin giving birth to live aphids, thus an individual plant or small area can get crowded quickly. As plants become crowded, females give birth to aphids that will grow wings and local dispersal occurs. As you walk fields be observant for plants where the true leaves in the top of the plant are cupped downward; this symptom is typical of aphid infestation. You will also notice that fire ants are often found on these initial plants (especially in reduced tillage fields) infested with aphids. The ants are actually protecting the aphids from other predators or “farming” the aphids for their honeydew which they use as a food source. Later in the year when the aphid populations have crashed due to a naturally occurring fungus, these fire ants will be valuable predators of insect pests such as corn earworm and fall armyworm



PEST PATROL HOTLINE: Check the Pest Patrol Hotline (**1-877-285-8525**) for updates on current insect conditions. Select #1 for updates from the Southern Region, then #3 for the Southeast, and then #4 to hear the Georgia update. More information, including sign up for text message alerts when new updates are posted, can be found at www.SyngentaPestPatrol.com. 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

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COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, COLLEGE OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES, WARNELL SCHOOL OF FOREST RESOURCES, COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SCIENCES

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