

June 8, 2006

COTTON PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER #2

COTTON SITUATION: The Georgia Weekly Crop Progress and Condition Report for the week ending June 4th listed the crop as 91 percent planted and 8 percent squaring. Cotton has responded to warm temperatures during recent weeks and is growing rapidly. Some areas are in need of a rain.

INSECT SITUATION: Thrips populations have declined during the past two weeks. A few reports of plant bugs in squaring cotton have been received. Tobacco budworm moth activity and moderate to high egg counts have been observed on some early-planted cotton. Aphids are being observed on individual plants and small areas of fields.

Scout Schools: Dates, location, and contacts for remaining Cotton Scout Schools are listed below. The Jeff Davis scout training will also include peanuts.

Jeff Davis Co.	June 12, 2006	Contact Tim Varnedore	(912) 375-6648
Midville	June 15, 2006	Contact Will Duffie	(706) 554-2119
Macon Co.	June 16, 2006	Contact Jeremy Kichler	(478) 472-7588

Thrips: Thrips populations appear to have declined over the past couple of weeks. Warm temperatures have also allowed for rapid seedling development that lessens thrips injury symptoms. Seedlings are susceptible to thrips until the 5-leaf stage. Once plants reach the 5-leaf stage and are growing rapidly, controls are rarely needed. The use of automatic foliar sprays for thrips when glyphosate applications are being made is discouraged.

Plant Bugs: As cotton begins to square, scouts should begin monitoring square retention and be observant for plant bug activity when walking fields. Treatments for plant bugs are recommended when plants are retaining less than 80 percent of small squares and numerous plant bugs are observed. It is a good habit to periodically pull plants and monitor retention of all first position squares. Our goal is to retain at least 80 percent of first position squares at first bloom.

Tobacco Budworm: Moderate to high tobacco budworm egg counts (for June) have been reported on early-planted cotton on the west side of the state. Normally, we see a generation of tobacco budworm infesting cotton during early June. Most egg lay is occurring on squaring cotton. Bt cotton should provide excellent control. On non-Bt cotton, non-pyrethroid insecticides should be used for control of tobacco budworm.

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