



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

June 9, 2011

***COTTON PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER #4***

**COTTON SITUATION:** The Georgia Weekly Crop Progress and Condition Report for the week ending June 5<sup>th</sup> listed the crop as 89 percent planted and 7 percent squaring which is slightly ahead of the five year averages of 84 and 5 percent. It is extremely DRY!

**INSECT SITUATION:** Not much reported in terms of cotton insect pests during recent days. However the insect situation can change in a matter of days so keep scouting on a regular basis and stay informed. Thrips are about done; populations are low in most fields. However, there is no question that thrips infestations were very high during May and many acres were treated with foliar insecticides (will have to see how this plays out). We would anticipate aphids building in localized spots of fields soon. Be observant for spider mites. As cotton begins to square begin monitoring square retention and be observant for plant bugs. With the extreme drought conditions, insects will be looking for something green to feed on.

**Thrips:** Thrips populations are low in most areas. 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. However, if no insecticide was used at planting, you may still have some issues with thrips.

**Spider Mites:** It is hot and dry. We have made a lot of foliar thrips sprays. Not much Temik. We are at risk of having spider mite problems. Be observant for mite injury in fields. Confirm the presence of mites on injured leaves by examining the underside of leaves with a hand lens or some other form of magnification. The presence of mites should influence decisions made for other pests. Be sure to use thresholds and treat only when necessary.



Spider mite injury symptoms: notice bronzing, stippling on the leaf folds and near main leaf veins initially (left and middle). A hand lens can be used to confirm the presence of spider mites.



A hand lens can be used to confirm the presence of mites on the underside of injured leaves. Often mites will be found near the base of the leaf where it is attached to the petiole. You can actually see mite eggs in the photo above (small and round).

**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.

Location	City	Date	Time	Contact for additional information
Tifton Campus Conference Center	Tifton GA	June 13, 2011	9:00 am -12:30pm	Debbie Rutland (229) 386-3424
Southeast Research and Education Center	Midville GA	June 21, 2011	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

**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

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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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