



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

June 11, 2009

COTTON PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER #2

COTTON SITUATION: The Georgia Weekly Crop Progress and Condition Report for the week ending June 7th listed the crop as 75 percent planted compared with the 5 year average of 91 percent. Cotton development ranges from “still in the bag” to squaring (about 4 percent). Drier conditions during recent days have allowed growers to make significant planting progress.

INSECT SITUATION: Thrips populations have been much lower on cotton planted in late May compared with April and early May planting dates. Thrips should be monitored closely, especially on late planted cotton as excessive thrips injury may delay maturity. A few reports of aphids have been received and we should expect these populations to build in the coming weeks. For the most part, insect problems have been relatively normal to date.

Cotton Scout School (Midville June 18, 2009): A cotton scout school will be held at the Southeast Research and Education Center near Midville on June 18, 2009. This program will offer basic information on cotton growth and development, cotton insects, and scouting procedures. The training will serve as a review for experienced scouts and producers and as an introduction to cotton insect monitoring for new scouts.

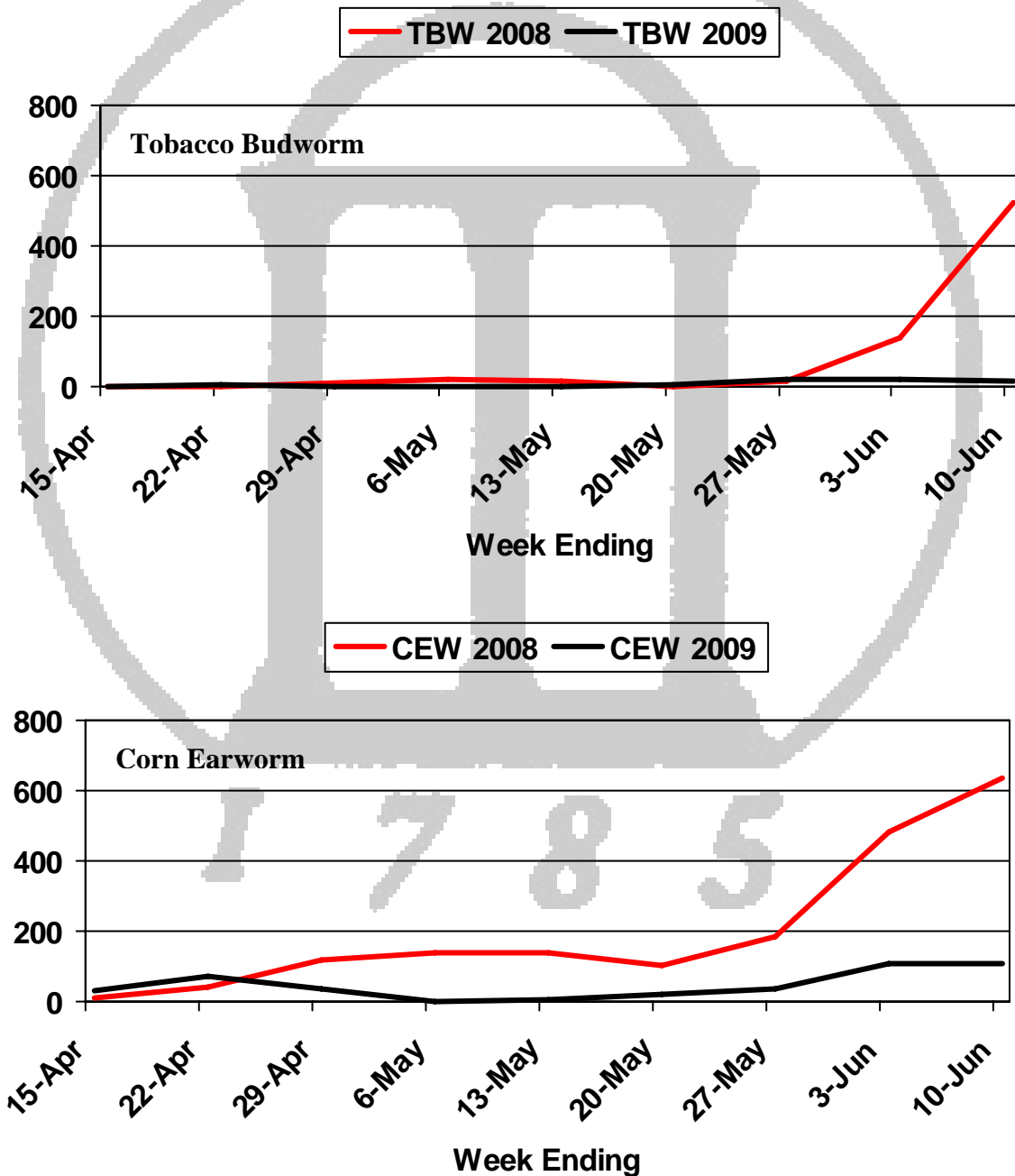
Location	City	Date	Time	Contact for additional information
Southeast Research and Education Center	Midville GA	June 18, 2009	9:00 am -12:30pm	Peyton Sapp (706) 554-2119

Thrips: Thrips populations appear to be significantly lower on cotton planted in late May and early June compared with earlier planting dates. Although thrips populations are lower, it remains important that growers monitor seedlings closely for thrips injury. In some areas excessive rains may have washed the preventive insecticide used at planting out of the root zone; leaving the plant unprotected (or reduced protection). The presence of multiple immature (wingless and crème colored) thrips per plant suggest that the preventive insecticide is no longer providing control.

Although lower, thrips populations remain high enough that excessive injury will likely occur if a preventive insecticide is not used at planting. Excessive thrips damage will delay maturity. Delays in maturity could be problematic, especially on our later planted fields. Monitor fields closely for thrips and damage and treat fields which need it in a timely manner. Avoid automatic applications of foliar thrips insecticides; such applications may create more problems than they solve.

Aphids: Cotton aphids have been reported from a couple of counties. Numbers are low, but we would expect aphids to build to high numbers in the coming weeks. In addition to controlling thrips, at plant insecticides such as Temik, Gaucho Grande, and Cruiser also provide some aphid control.

Tobacco Budworm and Corn Earworm: For the past several years we have been monitoring tobacco budworm and corn earworm pheromone traps at the RDC Pivot site on the Tifton Campus. The charts below illustrate trap captures for tobacco budworm and corn earworm. Note that corn earworm and tobacco budworm trap captures at this location are lower for 2009 compared to 2008. Hopefully this trend will continue.



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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