



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

June 12, 2008

***COTTON PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER #3***

**COTTON SITUATION:** The Georgia Weekly Crop Progress and Condition Report for the week ending June 8<sup>th</sup> listed the crop as 91 percent planted and 8 percent squaring which is similar to the 5 year averages of 92 percent and 14 percent respectively. Recent days brought scattered showers, scattered meaning some areas have received rainfall while others remain dry.

**INSECT SITUATION:** Thrips populations are low in most areas and cotton is rapidly growing out of the thrips susceptibility window (where moisture is present). We continue to get a few calls concerning grasshopper feeding on seedling cotton; unfortunately a few replants have been needed due to grasshopper damage. A few reports of aphids were received and spider mites were observed in a limited number of fields. As cotton begins squaring, be sure scouts are monitoring square retention and are observant for plant bug activity. We would anticipate observing an increase in aphid populations in the coming weeks. For now, insect pest activity on cotton is relatively quite.

**Spider Mites:** Spider mites are not a common pest of cotton in Georgia, but one which we have observed with more frequency during recent years. This is a pest scouts and growers should be observant for when walking fields. Spider mites infest the undersides of leaves and are very small. Early damage symptoms include discoloration, bronzing, or reddening along the main leaf veins or folds of leaves (see images below). A hand lens will be needed to confirm the presence of mites on the underside of leaves exhibiting damage symptoms. Insecticides should be applied on an as needed basis to conserve beneficial insects and reduce the likelihood of a spider mite outbreak.



Left: early damage symptoms (bronzing discoloration on leaf folds) from spider mites.  
Right: underside of leaf in left photo, note damage in folds of leaf and near leaf veins.



Magnified view of spider mites and eggs (photo by Mississippi State University Archives, ipmimages.org)

**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.

Location	City	Date	Time	Contact for additional information
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

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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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