



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

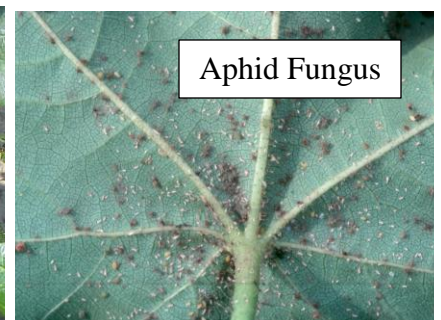
July 8, 2010

COTTON PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER #3

COTTON SITUATION: The Georgia Weekly Crop Progress and Condition Report for the week ending July 4th listed the crop as 70 percent squaring and 21 percent setting bolls which is ahead of the 5-year averages of 62 and 15 percent. The crop is rated 24% fair, 50% good, and 15% excellent.

INSECT SITUATION: Aphid populations have increased in several areas (growers need to be on the lookout for the fungus which will cause populations to crash). Tobacco budworm and corn earworm moth activity and egg lay has increased in South Georgia. Reports of threshold infestations of stink bugs have been received in early planted cotton. Spider mites are present at low levels in several areas.

Aphids: Cotton aphid populations have been slow to build but are increasing rapidly in some areas. Historically only a small percentage of cotton is treated for aphids as most growers opt to wait on the naturally occurring fungus which will cause populations to crash. Research and on farm trials conducted by UGA have not consistently demonstrated a consistent yield response to aphid control. However, aphids add additional stress to plants by feeding on and removing plant juices and treatment may be justified in some situations. The decision to treat an aphid infestation is a judgment call. One must first consider if the fungal epizootic is near. Is there any indication of the fungus (ie. Gray fuzzy aphid cadavers)? Once numerous gray fuzzy aphid cadavers are observed in a field we would expect the aphid population to crash due to the fungus in about a week. Also consider the general health and condition of plants.



Corn Earworm and Tobacco Budworm: Both CEW and TBW moths are active in South Georgia. Bt cotton should provide excellent control of TBW, but supplemental control of CEW may be needed (even in 2-gene Bt cottons). It is important that growers have scouts in the field monitoring for CEW escapes or larvae ¼ inch in length or greater. Treatment is recommended for CEW if 8 larvae ¼ inch in length or greater are found per 100 plants.

Stink Bugs: Dr. Mike Toews, UGA Research Entomologist in Tifton, reported this week that they are beginning to observe some southern green stink bugs. However the majority of the stink bug complex continues to be comprised of brown stink bugs. We continue to receive reports of threshold damage levels on early planted cotton. Get in the field and crack some quarter sized bolls for internal bug damage. If threshold levels are exceeded, treat in a timely basis. If threshold levels are not exceeded, allow the beneficial insects to do their job.

Spider Mites: Mites have been reported from several counties. As we have said before, the presence of mites in a field should influence your decision making for other pests.

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

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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