



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

July 19, 2007

COTTON PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER #6

COTTON SITUATION: The Georgia Weekly Crop Progress and Condition Report for the week ending July 15th listed the crop as 65 percent squaring and 22 percent setting bolls which is significantly below the five year averages of 91 percent squaring and 54 percent setting bolls. Crop conditions have improved in most areas due to scattered thunderstorms. This crop will be late maturing but still has potential for good yields if favorable weather continues.

INSECT SITUATION: Corn earworm and tobacco budworm egg and larval counts have increased in many areas. Survival of corn earworm in Adult Vial Tests (vials treated with the pyrethroid cypermethrin) remains a concern. Aphids are sporadic but generally light. Aphid populations are crashing in some areas due to the naturally occurring fungus, however little indication of fungus has been observed in others. Internal boll damage from boll feeding bugs (stink bugs and plant bugs) has increased on early planted cotton. Low numbers of spider mites continue to be observed in some areas. Whiteflies have been reported in Tift, Colquitt, and Berrien counties.

Corn Earworm and Pyrethroid Susceptibility: Corn earworm (CEW) pressure increased in many areas during the past week. Some of the first insecticide sprays targeting CEW were made in recent days and we should receive feedback on pyrethroid performance in the field soon. This past week we conducted AVTs in Sumter, Crisp, Macon, Colquitt, Mitchell, and Tift counties (see July 12, 2007 Newsletter for additional information on AVTs). Average survival for 220 moths tested at 5µg cypermethrin per vial was 36 percent with a range of 10-78 percent. Observed levels of survival remain a concern. The variability in AVTs suggests that pyrethroid susceptibility varies by location and even by date at the same location.

Scout fields thoroughly before and after sprays and be timely with applications. Treat CEW and other pests on an as needed basis to conserve natural controls. Below are guidelines for CEW control:

Low Infestations: use medium to high rates of pyrethroids (avoid low rates).

Moderate to Heavy Infestations: add an ovicide or a non-pyrethroid larvicide with a medium to high rate of pyrethroid.

Evaluation: Efficacy of pyrethroid sprays should be evaluated three days after application. If poor control of corn earworm is observed and other factors of poor

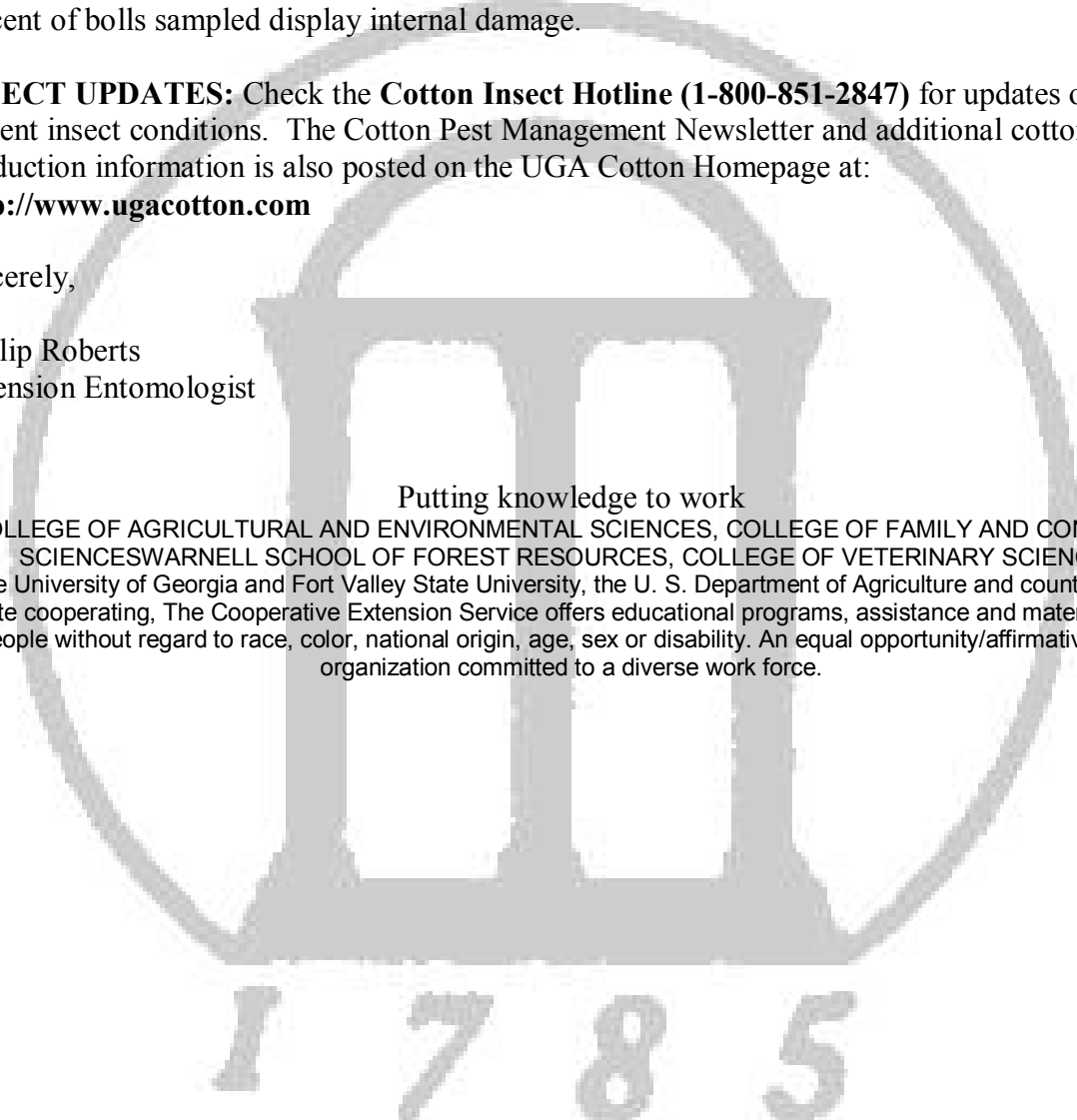
control (coverage, rate, timing of application) can be ruled out, a non-pyrethroid insecticide should be used.

Boll Feeding Bugs: Scouts should be monitoring medium sized bolls for internal damage due to feeding by stink bugs and plant bugs. Until bolls the diameter of a quarter are present, scouts should monitor the largest bolls present (ie during the first week of bloom). If small bolls are fed upon by bugs they will often abort. Bolls are considered damaged if stained lint and/or callous growths are present on the inner surface of the boll wall. Treatment is recommended if 20 percent of bolls sampled display internal damage.

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, SWARNELL SCHOOL OF FOREST RESOURCES, COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SCIENCES
The University of Georgia and Fort Valley State University, the U. S. Department of Agriculture and counties of the state cooperating, The Cooperative Extension Service offers educational programs, assistance and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability. An equal opportunity/affirmative action organization committed to a diverse work force.