



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

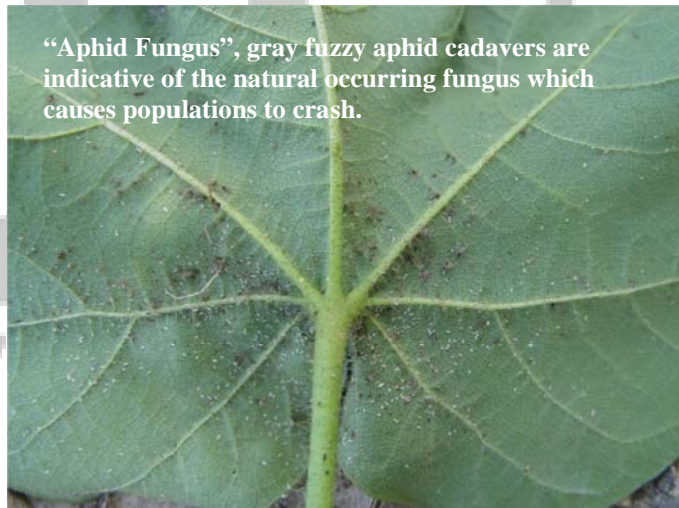
July 21, 2011

COTTON PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER #7

COTTON SITUATION: The Georgia Weekly Crop Progress and Condition Report for the week ending July 17th listed the crop as 70 percent squaring and 41 percent setting bolls. Crop conditions continue to vary significantly across the state depending on the frequency and amount of rainfall events and/or irrigations. Pop-up thunderstorms during the past week or two have improved crop conditions in some areas.

INSECT SITUATION: Aphid populations are crashing in some areas of southwest Georgia whereas in other parts of the state (east Georgia) aphid numbers are just beginning to build. Overall insect pest populations remain relatively low in most areas. However we have received reports of increased corn earworm activity. Stink bug numbers are relatively low in most areas but some fields have exceeded threshold levels of damage and are being treated. Spider mites are present in some fields; but it is rare that treatment has been needed.

Aphids: The aphid fungus has been reported from several counties in southwest Georgia and aphid populations are crashing in some heavily infested fields. This has been a strange aphid year in that aphid numbers have been very slow to build and populations are not uniformly distributed. Within the same county or community some fields are heavily infested and others are not. Scouts need to be looking for fuzzy gray aphid cadavers which are indicative of the naturally occurring fungus. Once the fungus is detected in a field, aphids generally crash in less than a week.



Corn Earworm and Tobacco Budworm: Bt cottons should provide excellent control of tobacco budworm and good control of corn earworm. However supplemental treatment of corn earworm with a foliar insecticide such as a pyrethroid is sometimes needed in Bt cotton. Be sure to monitor blooms and bolls with dried bloom tags for escaped corn earworms. Apply insecticide on Bt cottons when 8 larvae (1/4 inch or greater in length) are found per 100 plants.

We have had a couple reports of increased CEW activity in cotton during the past week. Small CEW larvae were reported in 30+ percent of blooms in some fields. When high numbers of CEW eggs and/or small larvae are present, consider using a pyrethroid or a pyrethroid+OP tank mix for control of stink bugs.



Just hatched CEW larvae in white bloom (left) and large CEW larva in pink bloom (right). Note that the boll has been damaged by the large larva.

Flea Beetles on Palmer: Jeremy Kichler, CEC Macon County, observed flea beetles, feeding on Palmer amaranth. In the past we have seen beet armyworms feeding on Palmer, but this is the first time I have observed flea beetles feeding on Palmer. There have been previous reports of flea beetles feeding on pigweed.



Stink Bugs: Stink bug numbers have been relatively low to date in cotton and other crops/host plants. However, there are fields in various parts of the state in which boll damage has exceeded the treatment threshold. Most stink bugs which have been observed in cotton are browns. Very few southern green stink bugs have been observed in cotton or the landscape as a whole. Pyrethroids provide good control of southern green stink bugs, but only fair control of brown stink bugs. OP insecticides such as Bidrin and methyl parathion provide good control of both brown and southern green stink bugs. However, Bidrin and methyl parathion provide little to no control of corn earworm. The “Decision Aid” card below is a good tool to assist you with proper scouting for stink bugs.

Decision aid for stink bug thresholds in Southeast cotton

Stained seed and lint

Boll wall warts

External lesions

Quarter size boll

Boll diameter should be between 0.9" and 1.1"

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Family and Consumer Sciences

Decision aid for stink bug thresholds in Southeast cotton

- 1 Pull random sample of quarter size diameter bolls, avoid field edges. (boll sizes between 0.9" and 1.1")
- 2 1 boll / acre, no less than 25 / field.
- 3 Sort bolls into two piles: those with and those without, obvious external lesions.
- 4 Crack and inspect bolls with external lesions for internal damage (boll wall warts, stained seed or lint).
- 5 If threshold is not met for that week, (see chart) check the remaining bolls for internal damage.
- 6 Treat field only if the threshold is met for that week.

Bolls should fit through the large hole but not the small one.

Week of bloom	Threshold (% internal boll damage)
2	20%
3	10-15%
4	10-15%*
5	10-15%*
6	20%
7	30%

*Consult state guidelines for scouting intervals.

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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