



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

July 22, 2010

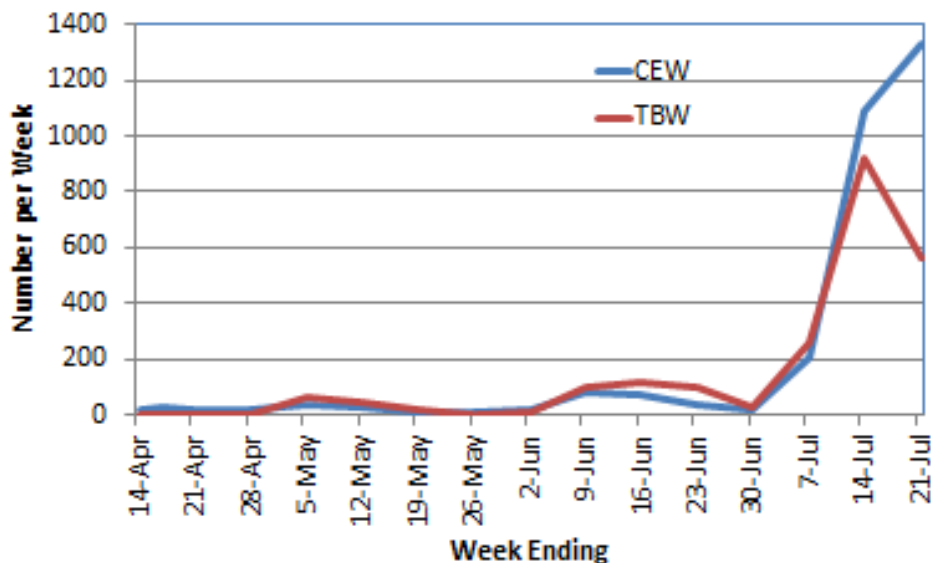
COTTON PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER #5

COTTON SITUATION: The Georgia Weekly Crop Progress and Condition Report for the week ending July 18th listed the crop as 92 percent squaring and 54 percent setting bolls which are ahead of the 5-year averages of 84 and 45 percent. The crop is rated 32% fair, 44% good, and 14% excellent. It is hot and we have noticed blooms in the tops of some dryland fields.

INSECT SITUATION: Aphid populations are crashing in many areas due to the naturally occurring fungus. Corn earworms continue to be active in many areas. We have received a few reports of fall armyworm and beet armyworm. Now is the time to manage stink bugs; scout and treat on an as needed basis. Spider mites continue to be reported at low to moderate levels in some fields.

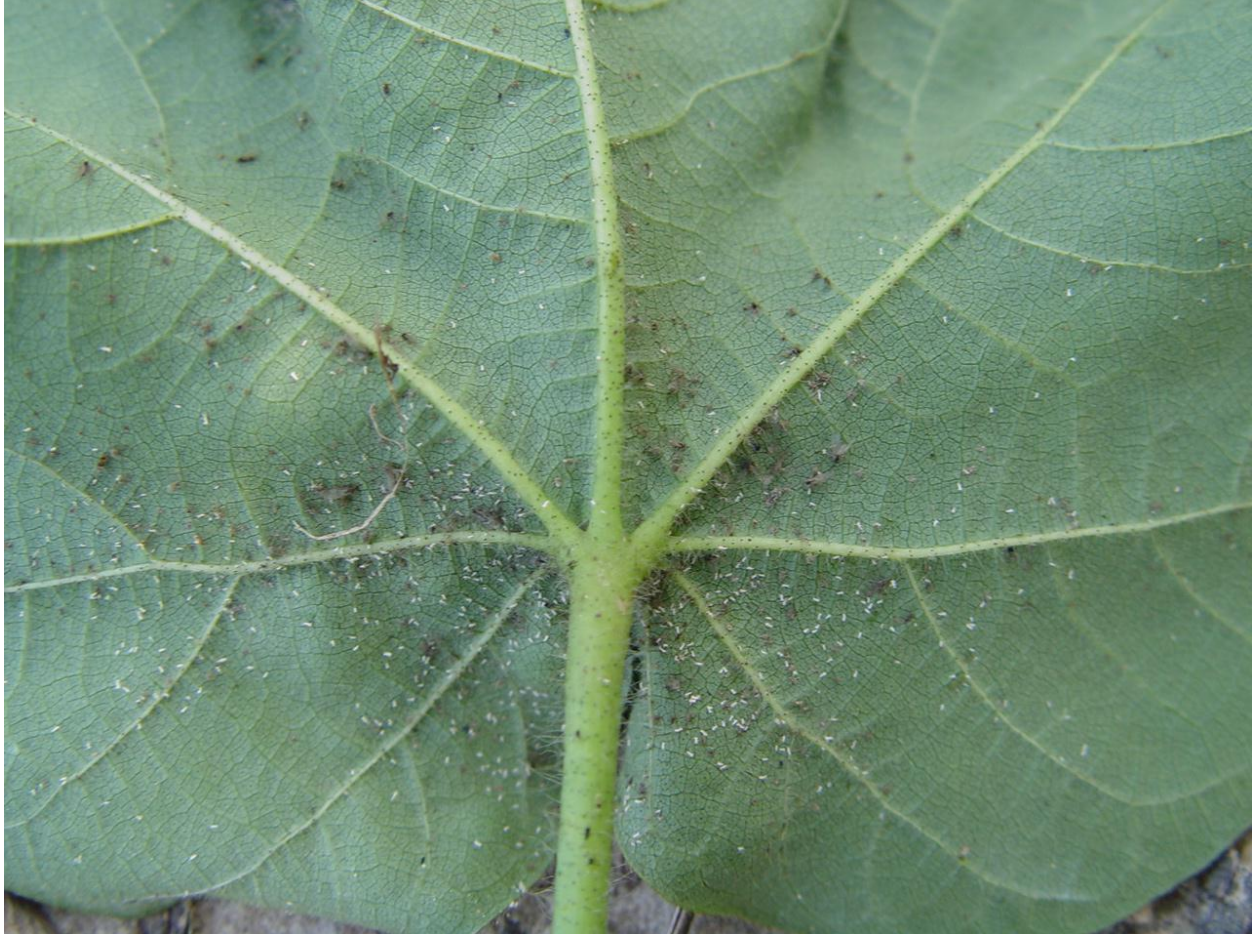
Corn Earworm: Corn earworms have been reported from most areas of the state. Be sure to monitor all cottons regardless of technology for developing populations. Treatment is recommended on Bt cottons when 8 CEW larvae ¼ inch or greater in length are found per 100 plants. Pheromone trap captures in Tifton this past week continued to increase for CEW but were lower for tobacco budworm.

**2010 CEW and TBW Pheromone Trap Captures
RDC Pivot (Tift Co. GA)**



Stink Bugs: We are beginning to hear more reports of southern green stink bugs infesting cotton. However, there are still brown stink bugs in the mix. We will likely continue to see a mixed population for the coming weeks. We have also received a few reports of clouded plant bugs which are also a boll damaging pest.

Aphids: Populations have crashed in many areas. Monitor fields which are still infested with aphids closely for gray fuzzy aphid cadavers which are indicative of the naturally occurring fungus which causes populations to crash. Once the fungus is observed in fields we would expect aphids to crash in about a week.



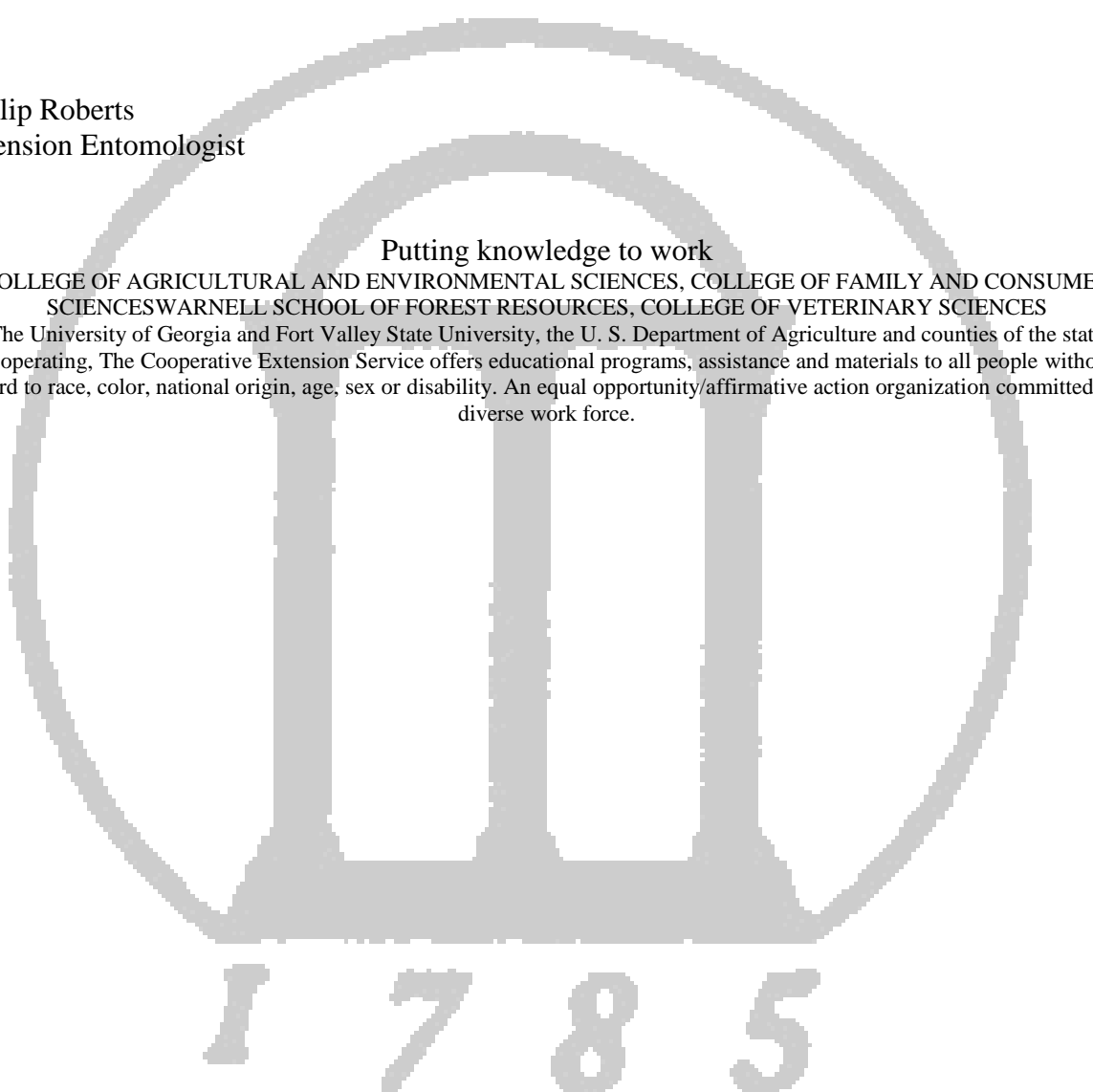
Spider Mites: The presence of spider mites in cotton should influence pest management decisions. Only use insecticides on an as needed basis and avoid insecticides which are prone to flare mites.

Armyworms: We have received a few reports of low levels of fall armyworms being observed in cotton in southernmost Georgia; populations are much lower than those we observed during 2009. We have also received a couple reports of beet armyworms on both cotton and pigweed.

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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