



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

July 23, 2009

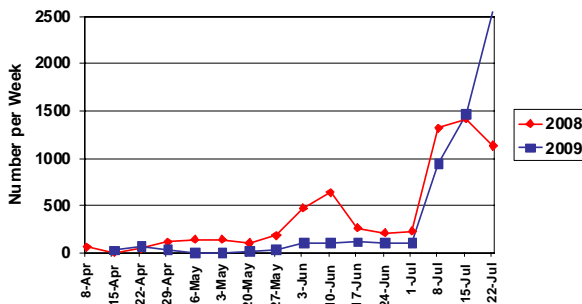
COTTON PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER #6

COTTON SITUATION: The Georgia Weekly Crop Progress and Condition Report for the week ending July 19th listed the crop as 82 percent squaring and 36 percent setting bolls which are behind the 5 year averages of 88 percent squaring and 53 percent setting bolls. Spotty rains have occurred for the past 2 weeks. Some dryland fields could use a rain. Where adequate moisture is available, cotton continues to develop rapidly.

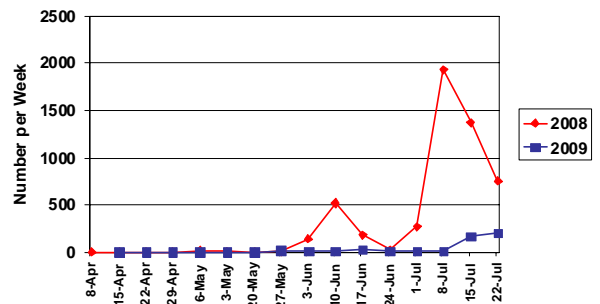
INSECT SITUATION: Corn earworm pressure has been high for about 2 weeks in southwest Georgia and is increasing in other areas as well. Be sure scouts are monitoring all cottons (Bollgard, Bollgard II, and WideStrike) for corn earworm and other insect pests. Fall armyworms are also being reported at low to moderate numbers. Beet armyworms can be observed on pigweed in many areas, we have had two reports of damaging levels of beets moving from pigweed to cotton. Continue to scout stink bugs and treat as needed. Be aware of spider mites. Aphids still linger in some areas.

Corn Earworm: CEW infestations have been high in southwest Georgia; significant egg lay has occurred for about two weeks. Many Bollgard fields which are blooming have been treated in this area. In central and east Georgia we are also receiving reports of increased CEW eggs and larvae. Most of the escaped CEWs on Bt cotton have been associated with blooms and dried bloom tags. Be sure scouts are monitoring Bollgard II and WideStrike fields for CEW. The threshold for Bt cottons is 8 CEW larvae 1/4 inch or greater per 100 plants. The 2-gene Bt cottons offer improved control of CEW, but may still require treatment in some fields. Pyrethroids should be used at medium to high rates for control of CEW. Pheromone trap captures from Tift County are below, note that CEW captures have continued to increase. Tobacco budworm numbers are much lower this year compared with 2008.

CEW Pheromone Trap Captures 2008-2009
 Tift Co. GA (RDC Pivot)



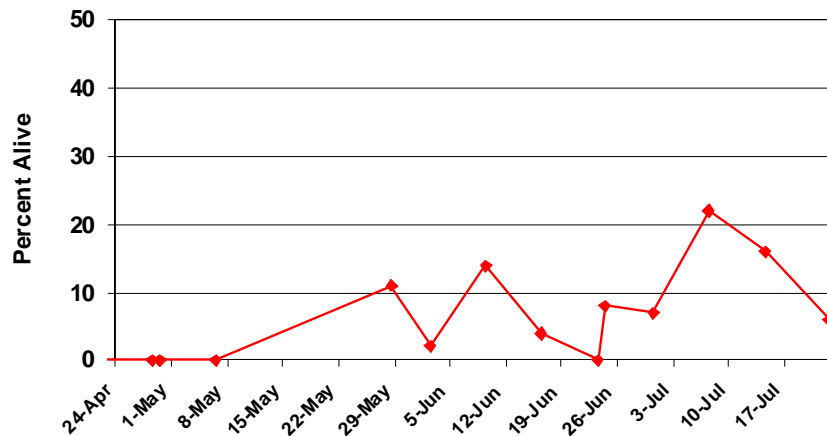
TBW Pheromone Trap Captures 2008-2009
 Tift Co. GA (RDC Pivot)



We have been monitoring CEW susceptibility to pyrethroids in Tifton using Adult Vial Tests. To date, survival in pyrethroid treated vials has been low, typically below 20 percent at the 5 micro gram dose. Control of CEW with pyrethroids has generally been good, however some fields have needed two applications due to the extended egg lay. In fields where stink bug sprays are being made, consider using a pyrethroid or a pyrethroid and OP tank-mix when high numbers of CEW eggs or small larvae are present.

CEW AVTs – Tift County GA 2009

5 microgram cypermethrin/vial



Stink Bugs: Much of the early planted cotton has required treatment for stink bugs. Scout and treat on an as needed basis. Be aware of CEW egg counts and larval counts when making applications for stink bugs. If significant infestations of CEW eggs or small larvae are present consider using a pyrethroid in the stink bug spray. Pyrethroids will provide good control of southern green stink bugs but only fair control of brown stink bugs (increasing pyrethroid rates of pyrethroids will improve control of brown stink bugs). In fields where brown stink bugs are present at threshold levels, an OP insecticide such as Bidrin will be needed to achieve good control. A medium to high rate of a pyrethroid plus a low rate of Bidrin is a good option when brown stink bugs and CEW are both infesting cotton.

Beet Armyworm: We have received two reports of BAW migrating from killed pigweeds to cotton. Beets have been reported feeding on pigweed in many areas of southwest Georgia. Larvae are developing on pigweed and then moving to cotton as large larvae. Large larvae are less susceptible to the Bt toxin and may survive on Bt cotton. Be aware of beet armyworms infesting pigweed, especially prior to and following herbicide applications.

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

