

July 27, 2006

COTTON PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER #7

COTTON SITUATION: The Georgia Weekly Crop Progress and Condition Report for the week ending July 23rd listed the crop as 98 percent squaring and 82 percent setting bolls. Some areas received much needed rainfall during the past week. These rains were beneficial for irrigated cotton and some dryland acres. Producers will be faced with some difficult management decisions in the coming weeks.

INSECT SITUATION: Tobacco budworm, corn earworm, and beet, fall, and southern armyworms have been reported at varying levels depending on location. To date, boll damage from boll feeding bugs such as stink bug and plant bug have been low to moderate when compared to 2005. Spider mites are still being observed in many areas and populations should be monitored closely.

Stink Bugs and Other Boll Feeding Bugs: To date, boll damage from boll feeding bugs has been low to moderate, especially when compared with 2005. Some fields have reached the economic threshold of 20 percent internal boll damage, whereas others have not. It is still early and bug conditions may change in time. It is important that all fields are scouted and treated on an as needed basis.

Spider Mites: Spider mites continue to be observed at low to moderate levels in southwest Georgia. Scouts should confirm the presence of spider mites with a 10X hand lens when mite injury symptoms are observed on leaves. Be observant for spider mite eggs; the presence of numerous spider mite eggs would suggest that populations could increase rapidly. In fields with low to moderate spider mite infestations, consider using insecticides that have spider mite activity when targeting other pests such as corn earworm. In situations where spider mite infestations are high, a true miticide should be considered.

INSECT UPDATES: Check the **Cotton Insect Hotline (1-800-851-2847)** for updates on current insect conditions. The Cotton Pest Management Newsletter is also posted on the UGA Cotton Homepage at: <http://www.ugacotton.com>

Sincerely,

Phillip Roberts
Extension Entomologist