



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

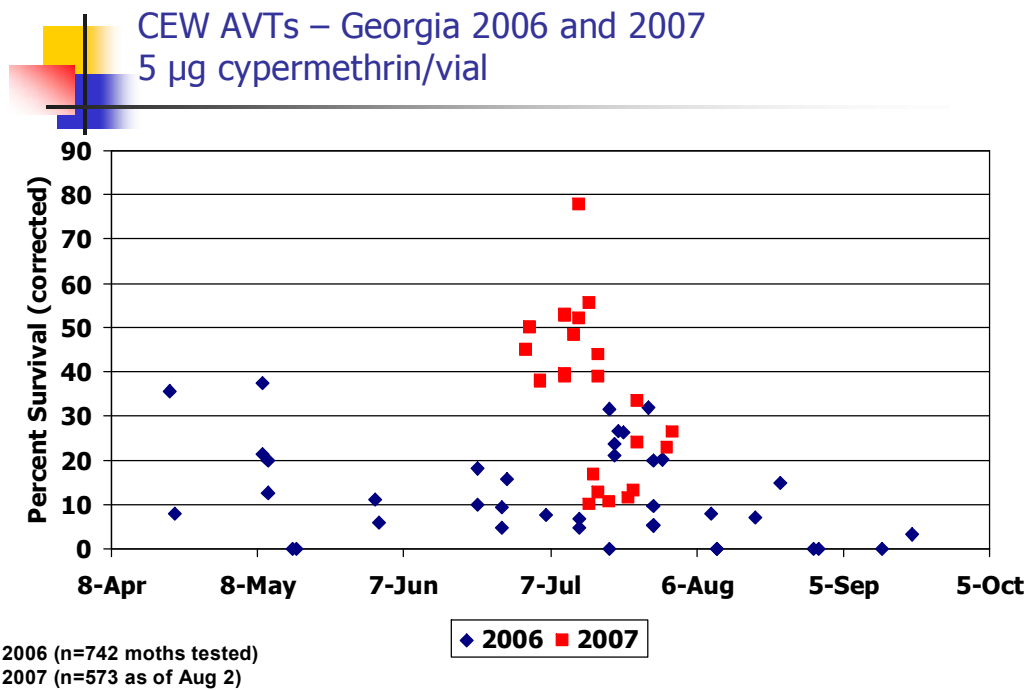
August 2, 2007

COTTON PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER #8

COTTON SITUATION: The Georgia Weekly Crop Progress and Condition Report for the week ending July 29th listed the crop as 89 percent squaring and 55 percent setting bolls. Although this crop is late, with adequate rainfall and a favorable fall good yields are attainable.

INSECT SITUATION: Corn earworm and tobacco budworm egg and larval counts continue to vary by location. High numbers of corn earworm larvae and moths were observed in Dr. John All's research plots at the SE Research and Education Center in Midville this week. Stink bug numbers are also variable, some fields have exceeded threshold while others have not. Aphids continue to linger in some areas, but most infestations have crashed due to the fungus. What a strange year for aphids. Silverleaf whitefly populations continue to build in historical whitefly hotspots.

Corn Earworm: Corn earworm (CEW) infestations range from low to high. Control with high rates of pyrethroids has been good to date. Adult vial tests were conducted in Tift and Mitchell counties this week and survival at the 5 µg cypermethrin per vial was 23 and 26 percent which is considerably lower than observed in early July (higher survival suggest that CEW are more tolerant to pyrethroids). See figure below for a summary of 2006 and 2007 AVT monitoring data.



Stink Bugs and Other Boll Feeding Bugs: Stink bug infestations are also varied by location. Scouts should be monitoring medium sized bolls for internal boll damage from boll feeding bugs. A boll is considered damaged if callous growths or warts are observed on the inner surface of the boll wall and/or stained lint is present. Treatment is recommended when 20 percent of medium sized bolls have internal damage. Scouts should also be observant for boll feeding bugs when walking fields; insecticide selection will vary based on the species present.

Silverleaf Whitefly: Economic infestations of SLWF are most often associated with drought years and late planted cotton in vegetable growing areas. Thus far, SLWF infestations have been reported in Tift, Colquitt, Cook, and Berrien Counties. In some fields reproduction (i.e. immatures present) has been observed. Populations of SLWF will probably continue to increase unless there are several days of heavy rainfall soon. Heavy rain normally reduces adult populations. Early planted cotton will likely avoid serious problems with SLWF in many areas, but late emerging cotton could be challenging. Be especially aware of SLWF in hairy leaf cottons. Some of our early-mid maturing varieties are hairy and are preferred by SLWF compared with smooth leaf cottons. Every effort should be made to conserve beneficial insects in fields infested with SLWF; in other words, spray other pests on an as needed basis only. The pyrethroid bifenthrin (several brand names) has activity on whiteflies when used at high rates and should be considered for use in whitefly infested fields when spraying stink bugs and/or corn earworm.

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

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