

August 4, 2004

COTTON PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER #10

COTTON SITUATION: The Georgia Weekly Weather and Crops Report for the week ending August 1st listed the crop as 100 percent squaring and 91 percent setting bolls. Crop development is accelerated in many areas and early- planted fields have bloomed out the top. This rapid crop progress is most likely due to high temperatures and limited rainfall during recent weeks.

INSECT SITUATION: Tobacco budworm and corn earworm activity has increased significantly during the last week. Very high tobacco budworm pressure is being observed in some areas. Boll feeding bug infestations remain sporadic and have declined in some areas.

Tobacco Budworm and Corn Earworm: Tobacco budworm and corn earworm numbers have increased significantly during the past week. In most areas, infestations are a mix of TBW and CEW. This is true in parts of east Georgia, which is atypical. During most years, TBW makes up a small percentage of the “bollworm” complex. When mixed infestations are present on non-Bt cotton, the infestation should be treated as a TBW infestation. Non-pyrethroid insecticides such as Tracer, Steward, or Denim would be recommended for control of TBW on non-Bt cotton.

Fall Armyworm: Fall armyworm infestations have been reported in southwest and east Georgia. The key to successful control is early detection. The threshold for FAW is 2X that used for tobacco budworm and corn earworm.

Boll Feeding Bugs: Boll feeding bug (stink bugs and plant bugs) infestations remain patchy. Some fields are exceeding the threshold of 20 percent internal boll damage and others are not. Scout all fields and treat on an as needed basis.

Silverleaf Whitefly: This week we have observed increases in silverleaf whitefly populations in Tift and Colquitt counties. SLWF problems have historically occurred during extended hot and dry environments. Some reproduction has started in cotton. If you are in an area prone to SLWF, watch these populations closely.

New Telephone Numbers for Crop & Soil Sciences: The telephone numbers for the Crop & Soil Sciences Department have changed. The new number for Ann Goodwin, Dewey Lee, Glen Harris, Steve M. Brown and J. Michael Moore is (229) 386-3006. The new number for Dena Watson, John Baldwin, John Beasley, Stanley Culpepper and Eric Prostko is (229) 386-3328. Please make note of these new numbers as the old ones will no longer work.

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.griffin.peachnet.edu/caes/cotton/>

Sincerely,

Phillip Roberts
Extension Entomologist