



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

August 7, 2008

COTTON PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER #10

COTTON SITUATION: The Georgia Weekly Crop Progress and Condition Report for the week ending August 3rd listed the crop as 78 percent setting bolls which is slightly behind the 5 year average of 84 percent. Bolls are opening in some April planted fields. Fields appear to be maturing rapidly. During recent weeks we have been living on scattered showers and where moisture has been received the crop is promising. Where it is dry, it is dry.

INSECT SITUATION: Stink bug numbers are variable, but the majority of fields which have been blooming for several weeks have needed at least one treatment. Corn earworm and fall armyworm range from low to moderately high. Spider mites continue to be observed but have yet to build to treatable levels. Whitefly adults have been observed in some localized areas.

Stink Bugs: Both brown and southern green stink bugs were observed in cotton this week. Dr. Mike Toews, Research Entomologist located in Tifton, also reported observing green stink bugs. Boll injury varies by location, but the majority of fields which have been blooming several weeks have exceeded the 20 percent internal injury threshold at least once. Continue scouting and treating on an as needed basis. Some early planted fields are approaching the stage which stink bug sprays can be terminated. Individual bolls are susceptible to yield loss from stink bug feeding for about 25 days (bolls are fully sized in about 20 days).

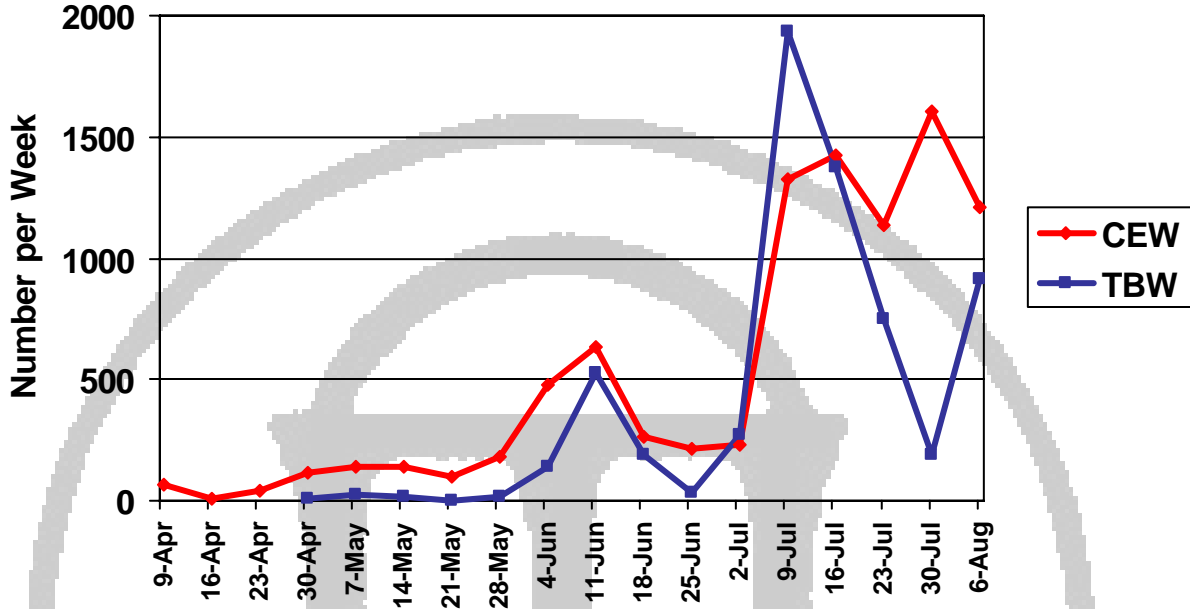
In fields where both stink bugs and CEW are at threshold levels a tank-mix of a pyrethroid and a low rate of an OP (such as Bidrin 4 ozs/acre) is a good option when brown stink bugs are observed. Pyrethroids will provide good control of southern green stink bugs but only fair control of brown stink bugs.

Corn Earworm: CEW infestations were high in some locations during July, requiring two applications in some fields. Extended egg lay and high numbers somewhat explain why multiple sprays were needed. However larvae were generally low in the plant canopy and often feeding on/in bolls under bloom tags. In some situations it may be a few days before a bloom tag larva leaves that boll potentially being exposed to insecticide residue. Such larvae are larger and thus more difficult to control and insecticide residue has declined. Penetration of the canopy and good coverage within the canopy is challenging, but should be a priority. Pyrethroids should be used at med/high rates for CEW control.

Fall Armyworm: FAW infestations are sporadic but continue to be reported from various areas. FAW is one of the most difficult to control insects we encounter in cotton. Diamond at 9 ozs/acre has performed relatively well on FAW. In situations where CEW and FAW are infesting fields, a pyrethroid will be needed for control of CEW. Pyrethroids provide good

suppression of very small (< 1/8 inch in length) FAW.

Pheromone Trap Counts (Tifton):



Southeast Research and Education Center 2008 Field Day: The annual Midville Field Day will be held on August 20, 2008. Registration will begin at 9:00 AM with field plot tours followed by a catered lunch.

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

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, COLLEGE OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES, SWARNELL SCHOOL OF FOREST RESOURCES, COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SCIENCES
The University of Georgia and Fort Valley State University, the U. S. Department of Agriculture and counties of the state cooperating, The Cooperative Extension Service offers educational programs, assistance and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability. An equal opportunity/affirmative action organization committed to a diverse work force.