



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

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COTTON PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER #9

COTTON SITUATION: The Georgia Weekly Crop Progress and Condition Report for the week ending August 5th listed the crop as 72 percent setting bolls. High temperatures made for a difficult week for man and cotton.

INSECT SITUATION: Egg and small larvae counts increased significantly in parts of southernmost Georgia. Most of the moths we observed have been corn earworm, although some tobacco budworms were also present. Fall armyworms have also been reported in southwest Georgia. Stink bugs and other boll feeding bugs remain variable; scouts need to be examining bolls for internal bug injury. Silverleaf whiteflies continue to build in historical whitefly areas.

Corn Earworm: Pheromone trap captures and reports of corn earworm (CEW) moth activity, eggs, and larvae increased this week. If CEW survive in Bt cotton, they are often found in blooms and under dried bloom tags. Be sure to monitor at least one bloom, a bloom tagged boll, and an additional boll on each plant examined.

Early instar CEW in pink bloom (top left), 4-5 day old CEW under a dried bloom targe (top right), 5-7 day old CEW in dried bloom, notice damage to small boll (bottom left), and large CEW in bloom (bottom right).



Fall Armyworm: Fall armyworm (FAW) is a sporadic pest which is difficult to scout for. FAW are fruit feeders and upon hatching from an egg mass small larvae disperse to fruiting structures (blooms and bolls). Small FAW are sometimes observed in pink blooms (cannot distinguish a small FAW from a small CEW when in a bloom). Small FAW may also be observed feeding or etching on the inner surface of boll bracts creating a window pane effect. As FAW larvae mature, they typically bore into the base of developing bolls. Control can be difficult due to larval location on the plant as it is difficult to get insecticides to the mid and lower canopy. Applicators need to put a priority on coverage and penetration of the canopy when treating for FAW. If FAW is detected early, high rates of pyrethroids provide fair to good control of small larvae (less than 1/8 inch in length). Larger larvae are more difficult to control and other insecticides will be needed. Several insecticides are recommended for FAW control. During recent years Diamond, which is an insect growth regulator, has shown good results.

FAW moth has white markings on the tips of the wings (top left), larvae disperse to fruiting structures upon hatching (top right), etching by small FAW larvae on inner surface of boll bracts (middle left and right), medium sized FAW larvae and feeding damage on base of boll (bottom left), large FAW in a bloom (bottom right).



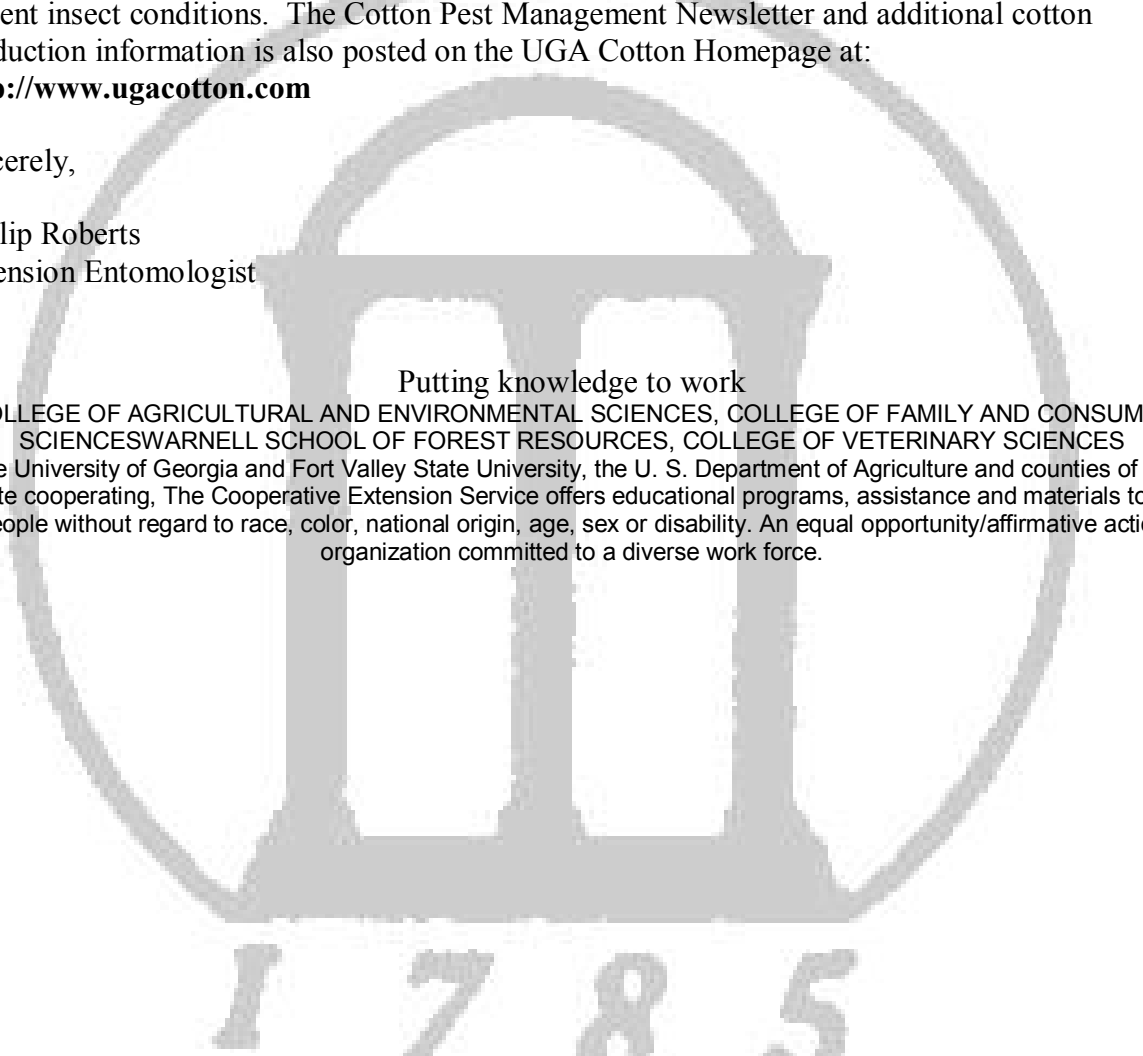
Stink Bugs and Other Boll Feeding Bugs: Stink bug and other boll feeding bugs remain variable by location. Some fields have yet to exceed thresholds, where as others have been treated.

Silverleaf Whitefly: Silverleaf whiteflies continue to be observed near Tifton and Moultrie. Reproduction is occurring in fields and we anticipate numbers to continue to increase. On late cotton, whitefly management should be a priority.

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

A large, faint watermark of the University of Georgia logo is centered on the page. It features a stylized archway with two columns and a central pillar, all enclosed within a circular border. Below the archway, the numbers '1785' are displayed in a large, bold, serif font.

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