



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

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**COTTON PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER #7**

**COTTON SITUATION:** The Georgia Weekly Crop Progress and Condition Report for the week ending August 8<sup>th</sup> listed the crop as 96 percent setting bolls and 7 percent bolls opening which are ahead of the 5-year averages of 86 and 1 percent. Crop conditions are rated as 32% fair, 36% good, and 11% excellent. Dryland yield potential is highly variable due to rainfall patterns. As a whole the crop (both irrigated and dryland) is developing rapidly, perhaps too fast in some areas. In the near future we will begin terminating controls for some insect pests in some fields.

**INSECT SITUATION:** Insect pest pressure varies widely depending on location. Stink bugs continue to be the most common insect pest requiring treatment. Corn earworm and fall armyworm are somewhat sporadic. Spider mites continued to be observed in several areas but most populations are below economic levels. Low numbers of beet armyworms and soybean loopers have also been reported in a few areas.

**Corn Earworm:** Corn earworm infestations vary by location, but remain a threat in most areas. Be sure scouts are monitoring all fields (including Bollgard II and WideStrike) for corn earworm. CEW populations have been very high in South Carolina and some areas of the Mid-South, but to date we have observed normal infestations in most of Georgia. We have also received reports of reduced CEW control with pyrethroids in some states. Although we have observed somewhat higher levels of survival in Adult Vial Tests (i.e. pyrethroid susceptibility monitoring) conducted in Tifton this year compared to last year which suggest that populations may be more difficult to control; pyrethroids appear to be performing well on CEWs in Georgia. DO NOT cut rates when using pyrethroids, the high rate is suggested.

**Stink Bugs:** Stink bug damage is common in most fields, but levels of damage are variable. Scout fields and treat only when thresholds are exceeded. The number of stink bug susceptible bolls is declining in early planted fields and thresholds may be raised; an individual boll is susceptible to stink bug damage for about 25 days.

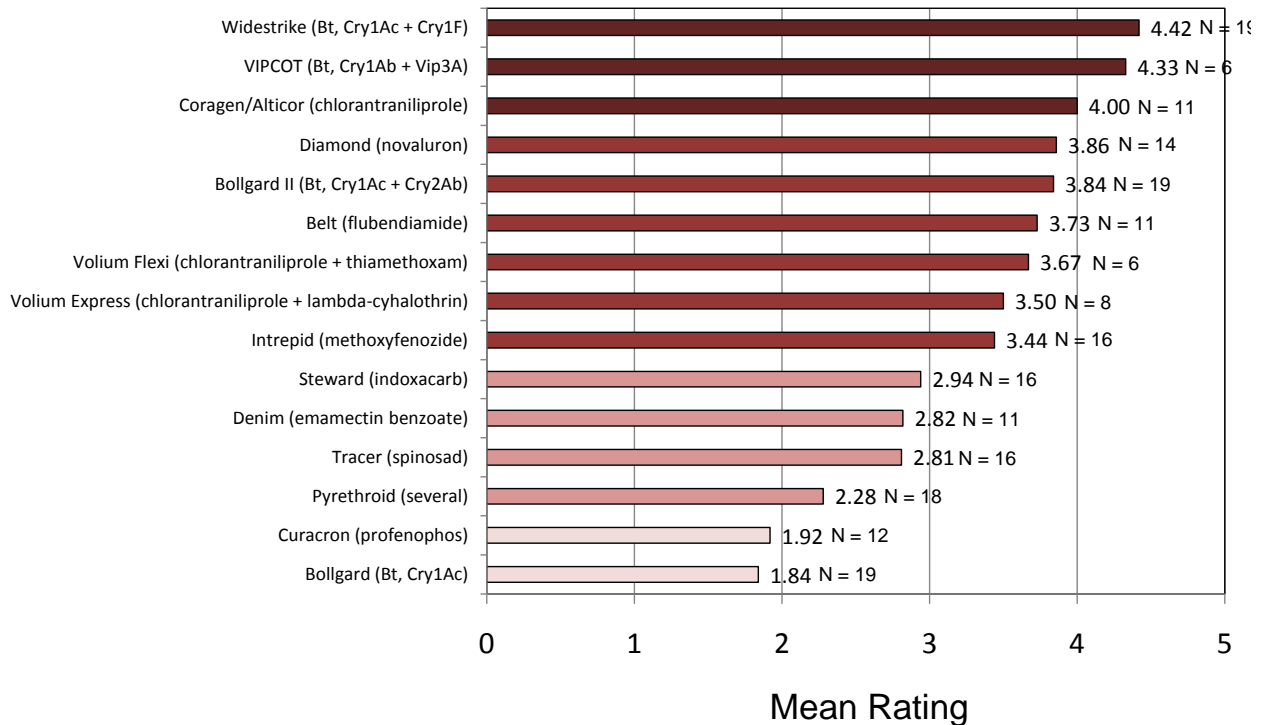
However much of our cotton still has numerous bolls on the plant which are susceptible to stink bugs; the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> weeks of bloom are critical in terms of stink bug management. Recall that we are recommending a *Dynamic Threshold* for stink bugs which adjust the threshold up or down based on the number of susceptible bolls present.

| <b>Dynamic Stink Bug Threshold</b> |                    |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Week of Bloom</b>               | <b>Boll Damage</b> |
| 2                                  | 20%                |
| 3                                  | 10-15%             |
| 4                                  | 10-15%             |
| 5                                  | 10-15%             |
| 6                                  | 20%                |
| 7(+)                               | 30%(+)             |

**Fall Armyworm:** FAW have been reported from several areas but treatable populations are sporadic. Infestations are much lower this year compared to 2009. The threshold for FAW is about 2X that used for CEW. Recently 22 cotton entomologist representing 14 states across the cotton belt responded to a survey on insecticide performance in cotton. Below find responses for control of FAW. In addition to rating efficacy on a scale from 0-5, respondents were asked to identify their standard treatment.

## Fall Armyworm

Standards: Diamond (8), Widestrike (6), Bollgard II (4), Steward (2), Intrepid (1)  
 0 = No Control, 1 = Poor Control, 2 = Marginal Control, 3 = Fair Control, 4 = Good Control, 5 = Excellent Control



**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, WARNELL SCHOOL OF FOREST RESOURCES, COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SCIENCES

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