



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

August 13, 2009

COTTON PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER #9

COTTON SITUATION: The Georgia Weekly Crop Progress and Condition Report for the week ending August 9th listed the crop as 81 percent setting bolls which is behind the 5 year average of 90 percent. Crop conditions were rated as 9% excellent, 44% good, 38% fair, 7% poor, and 2% very poor. The first Crop Production report for the 2009 cotton crop was issued by the National Agricultural Statistics Service on August 12, 2009. Cotton production in Georgia is estimated to be 1.7 million bales on 970,000 harvested acres with an average yield of 841 lbs/acre. Our crop is later than normal and favorable weather (moisture and temps) will be needed during the coming weeks. The entire Crop Production report as well as other releases can be found at http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/Reports_By_Date/index.asp.

INSECT SITUATION: Continue to monitor all fields and treat as needed for corn earworm, fall armyworm, and stink bugs (infestations from these pests are up compared with previous years). Also be observant for the presence of spider mites and whiteflies. Whitefly numbers significantly increased in some localized areas during the past week. Soybean loopers have been observed in other crops, so be aware of defoliation from this pest. Beet armyworms continue to be reported from a few fields.

Upcoming Field Days:

Date:	Location:	Contact for additional info:
August 19, 2009	SEREC Field Day in Midville	Anthony Black (478) 589-7472
August 25, 2009	SWREC Field Day in Plains	Stan Jones (229) 824-4375
September 9, 2009	Cotton and Peanut Field Day in Tifton	Debbie Rutland (229) 386-3424

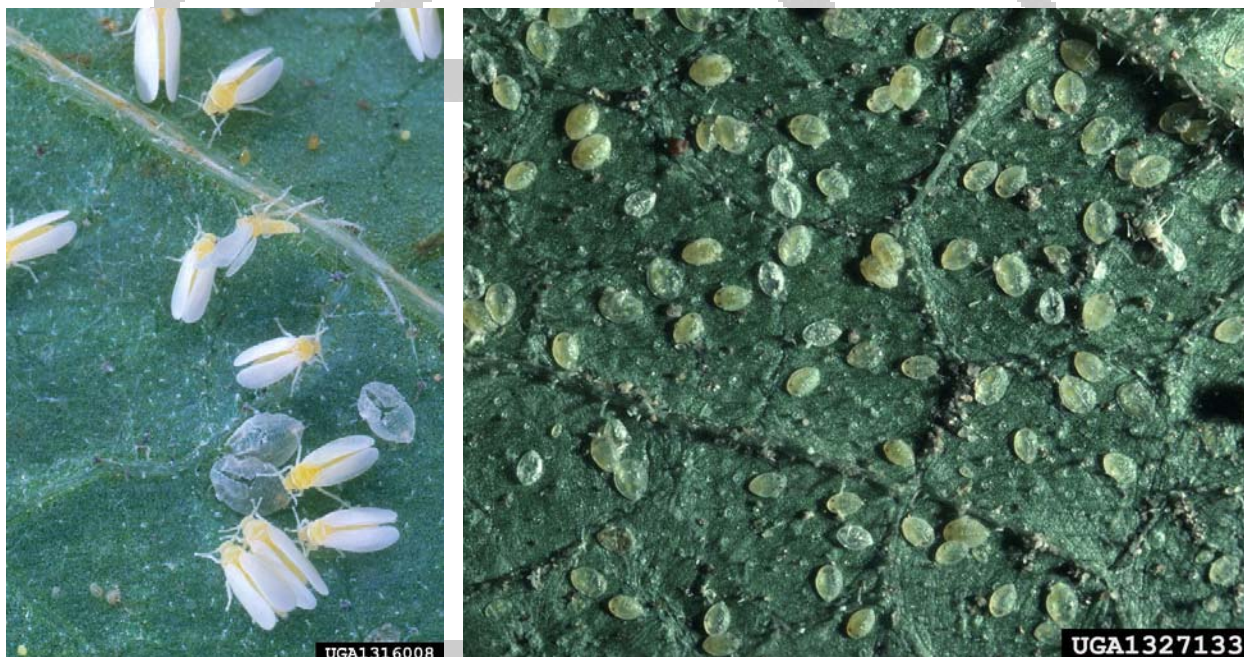
Corn Earworm and Fall Armyworm: CEW and FAW infestations have been much higher in 2009 compared with previous years. Some of our earlier planted cotton is becoming less attractive to moths and it is likely egg lay will concentrate on our later planted fields which are still green and lush in the coming weeks. Scout and treat accordingly.

Stink Bugs: Reports of internal boll damage exceeding threshold continue to be received. Species makeup varies by location, but both brown and southern green stink bugs are found in most fields.

Soybean Looper: Soybean loopers have been reported in soybeans in South Georgia. We have not heard any reports of loopers in cotton, but this is a pest we should be observant for. Loopers initially feed on foliage in the lower canopy and work their way up the plant. A large percentage of foliage consumed by loopers occurs late in larval development (i.e. larger larvae). The

decision to treat should be based on defoliation, however if loopers number 8 per row foot economic levels of defoliation will generally occur.

Silverleaf Whitefly: Whitefly infestations significantly increased in some localized areas during the past week. Infestations we have observed are comprised of adults primarily. Be sure to monitor whitefly infested fields closely for reproduction or the presence immatures. In fields where whiteflies are present, beneficial insects should be conserved by only spraying other pests on an as needed basis. When treating other insect pests utilize insecticides which are least likely to flare whitefly infestations. Conserving beneficial insects and using IGRs such as Knack or Courier are our best approach for managing whiteflies. Consider using an IGR for whiteflies when immatures are found on the majority of leaves sampled. The underside of the 5th expanded leaf below the terminal should be examined for the presence of immatures. Whiteflies are a potential pest until defoliation and the leaves have dropped. Management of whiteflies should be a priority, especially on our later planted cotton.



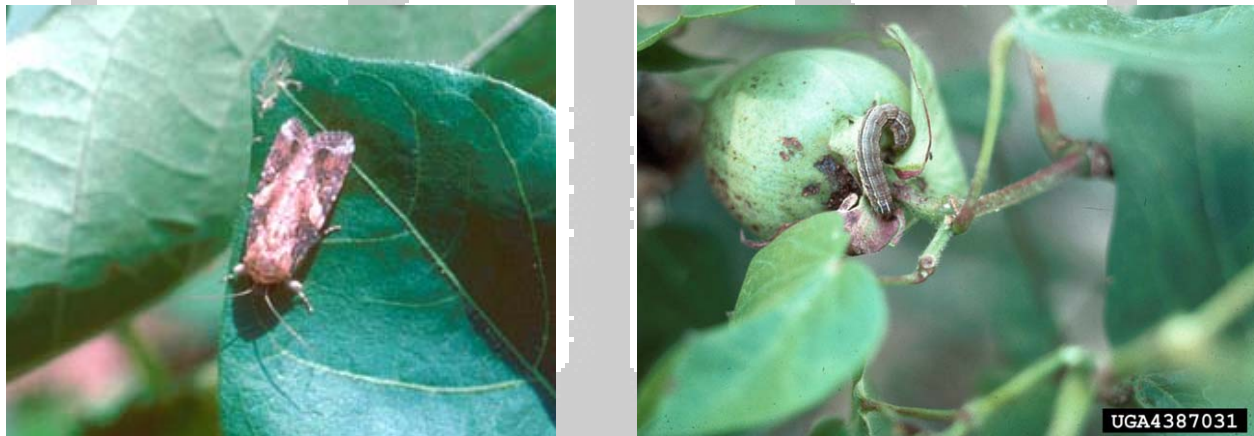
Silverleaf whitefly adults (left) and immatures (right). Adults typically found on the underside of leaves. Immatures are also found on the underside of leaves and are yellowish in color. Photos by Scott Bauer and Alton N. Sparks Jr., ipmimages.org

Cotton & Peanut Research Field Day, September 9, Tifton: Mark your calendars for the 2nd Annual UGA Cotton and Peanut Research Field Day scheduled for September 9, 2009. The tour will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude with lunch; a detailed schedule of speakers and stops will be forthcoming. The field day is being sponsored by the Georgia Cotton Commission and the Georgia Peanut Commission. Lunch will be included only for those who register by September 3. To confirm your attendance, contact Debbie Rutland, Department of Entomology at (229) 386-3424.

Moth and Larval Identification: Moths are active at night but generally some are observed when walking and scouting fields. There is value in being able to identify moths flushed when walking fields. It gives us an indication of potential egg lay which may be occurring. Below find several images of moths and larvae of common caterpillar pests which were downloaded from IPM Images at <http://www.ipmimages.org/>. This is a very useful website with many images of commonly occurring insect pests.



Corn Earworm (left), CEW and TBW larvae (middle), and Tobacco Budworm (right). Moths of CEW and TBW are easy to identify, however larvae appear identical without magnification. For additional information of identifying or differentiating CEW and TBW larvae see the following website: <http://www.gaipm.org/cotton/larvaid.html>. Images by Steve L. Brown, RJ Reynolds Tobacco Company Slide Set, and J. Michael Moore, ipmimages.org.



Fall armyworm adult (left) and larva (right). Images by David Jones, ipmimages.org.



Beet armyworm moth (left) and larva (right). Images by Ian Kimber and Alton N. Sparks Jr., ipmimages.org.



Soybean looper moth (left) and larva (right). Images by Russ Ottens and Ron Smith, ipmimages.org.

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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