



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

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COTTON PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER #11

COTTON SITUATION: The Georgia Weekly Crop Progress and Condition Report for the week ending August 10th listed the crop as 90 percent setting bolls and 1 percent bolls opening. The August 12, 2008 USDA Crop Production Report forecasted Georgia's 2008 cotton crop to average 809 pounds of lint per harvested acre. Acreage expected to be harvested this fall is estimated at 890,000 acres with production of 1.5 million bales.

INSECT SITUATION: Stink bug numbers remain variable; as a whole stink bug populations have not built to the high levels we anticipated. However, scouting should be a priority as threshold numbers continue to be reported in many areas. Corn earworm and fall armyworm vary by location but have been reported at treatable levels in some fields. Low numbers of soybean loopers were reported in south Georgia. Adult whiteflies continue to be observed in localized areas, monitor infested fields closely for reproduction.

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.

Cotton & Peanut Research Tour, September 10, Tifton: Mark your calendars for the UGA Cotton and Peanut Research Tour scheduled for September 10, 2008. The tour will begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 4:00 p.m. A detailed schedule will be forthcoming. Lunch will be included for those who register by August 29. To confirm your attendance, contact Debbie Rutland, Department of Entomology at (229) 386-3424.

Stink Bugs: Brown stink bug populations were much higher during July compared with previous years. The majority of early planted fields exceeded threshold levels during mid-late July (most of the early boll injury was likely caused by brown stink bugs). Both southern green and green stink bugs have been observed in cotton during recent weeks, but numbers are not as high as we expected based on our early observations of brown stink bugs in multiple cropping systems. However, there are still many fields which exceed or will exceed the 20 percent internal boll injury threshold and scouting for stink bugs should be a priority for the remainder of the season. The bug situation could change so again, scouting and treating on an as needed basis should be a priority. Many fields will remain susceptible to stink bug injury for several more weeks. Bolls are susceptible to stink bug damage until about 25 days of age. When scouting fields be observant for stink bugs (a drop cloth is even better) to get an idea of boll feeding bugs present. Examining bolls approximately the diameter of a quarter for internal injury (warts or callous growths and/or stained lint on the inner surface of the boll wall) is the best method of determining the need to treat. OP insecticides such as Bidrin provide improved control of brown

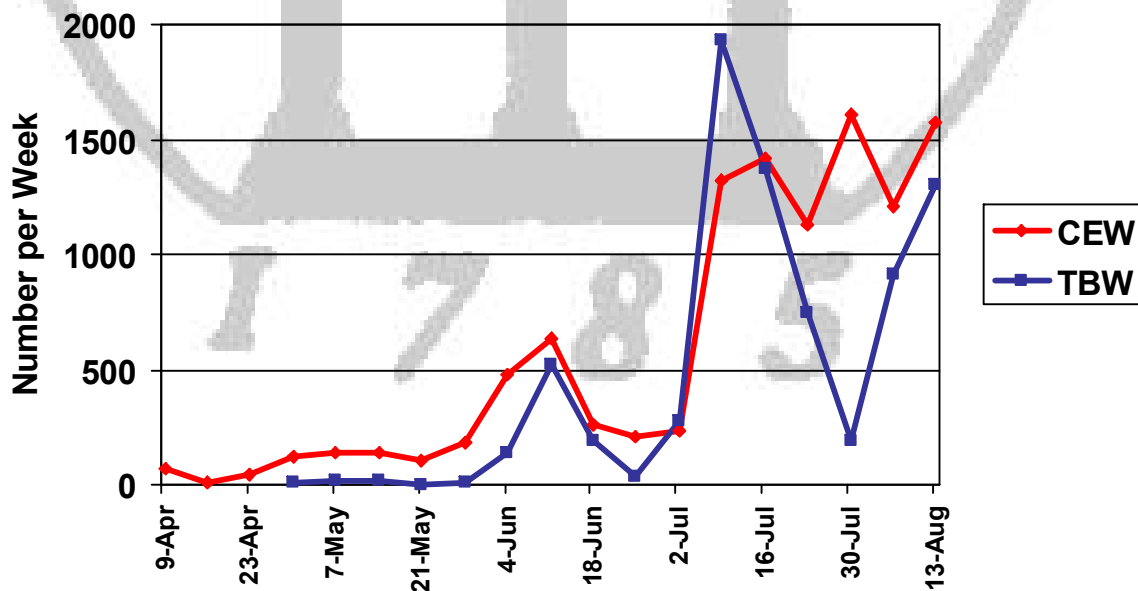
stink bugs compared with pyrethroids. Both OPs and pyrethroids will provide good control of southern green and green stink bugs.

Fall Armyworm: FAW infestations have been sporadic, but it appears another generation is starting in southernmost Georgia. FAW is a difficult insect to scout for, typically feeding on developing bolls and blooms in the mid to lower canopy. Be observant for etching on the inner surface of boll bracts which is indicative of FAW feeding. FAW can damage large bolls, typically chewing through the lower area of bolls. The threshold for FAW is 2 times that of CEW.

Corn Earworm: CEW numbers remain variable. Early planted cotton approaching cutout is becoming less attractive to moths for oviposition, however moderate to high numbers have been reported in some green, lush fields. Pay close attention to blooms, bloom tagged bolls and bolls near the uppermost white bloom for CEW larvae.

Tobacco Budworm: TBW numbers continue to be moderate to high in southwest and west Georgia. Bt cotton provides excellent control of TBW. On non-Bt cotton, we would expect most egg and larval populations to be mixed with TBW and CEW in central and southwest Georgia. These infestations should be treated as TBW. Tobacco budworm is historically more sporadic in east Georgia.

Pheromone Trap Counts (Tifton): Weekly trap captures of CEW and TBW in Tift County are illustrated below. Note that TBW numbers peak about every 4 weeks (the life cycle of TBW is about 4 weeks). CEW also completes development from egg to adult in about 4 weeks but the distinct trap capture peaks are not evident. CEW captures have been similar for the last 5 weeks. This may be explained by varied planting dates of corn which generates many CEW per acre and also in that CEW has more plant hosts compared with TBW.

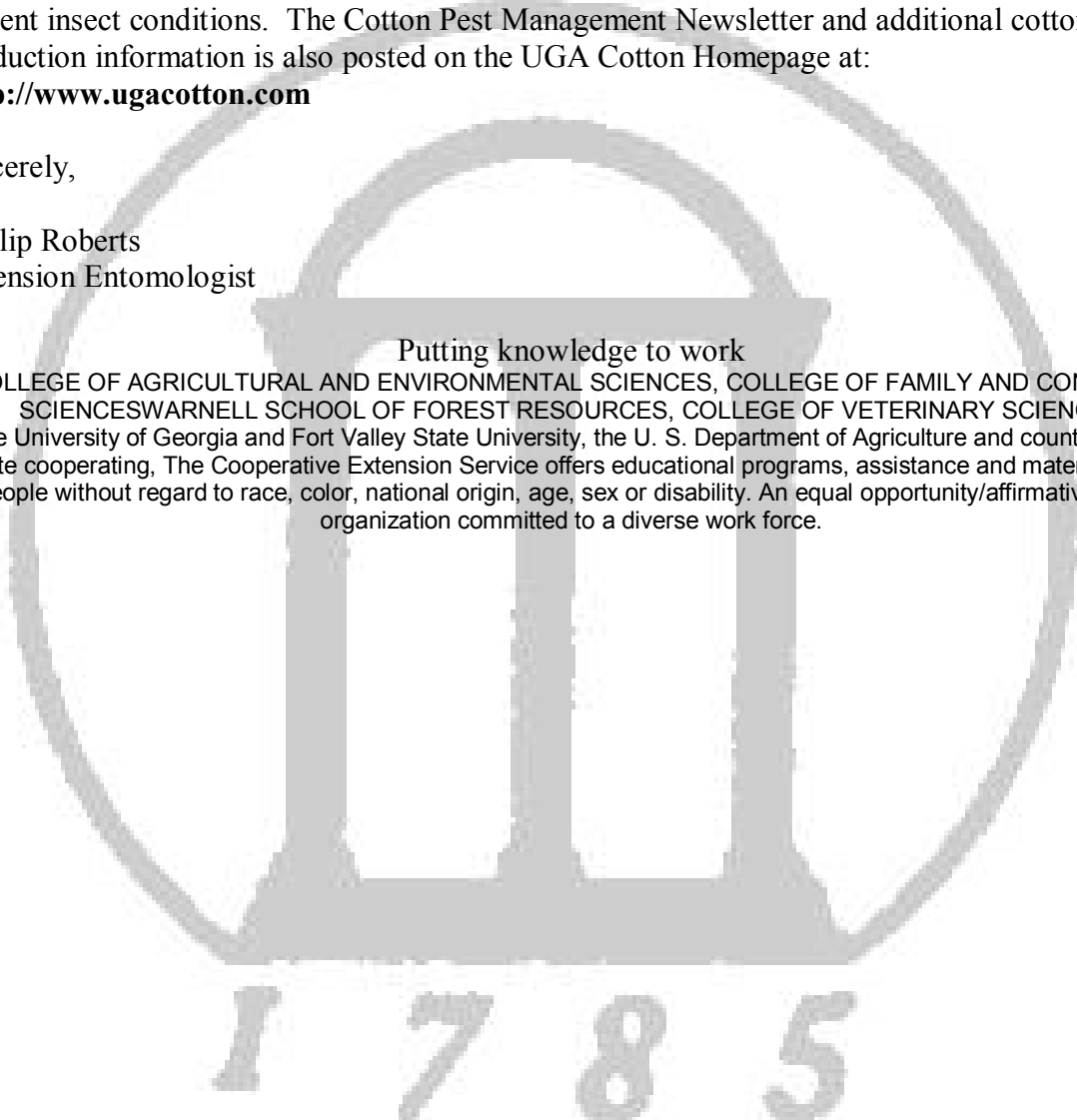


Soybean Looper: Soybean looper infestations have been reported in southernmost counties. Infestations are low, but scouts should be observant for defoliation. Loopers initially feed on foliage in the lower canopy and work their way up the plant. A large percentage of foliage consumed by loopers occurs late in larval development. The decision to treat should be based on defoliation, however if loopers number 8 per row foot economic levels of defoliation will generally occur.

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

The background of the page features a large, faint watermark of the University of Georgia logo. It consists of a circular emblem containing a stylized archway or building facade. Below the emblem, the year '1785' is written in a large, serif font.

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