



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

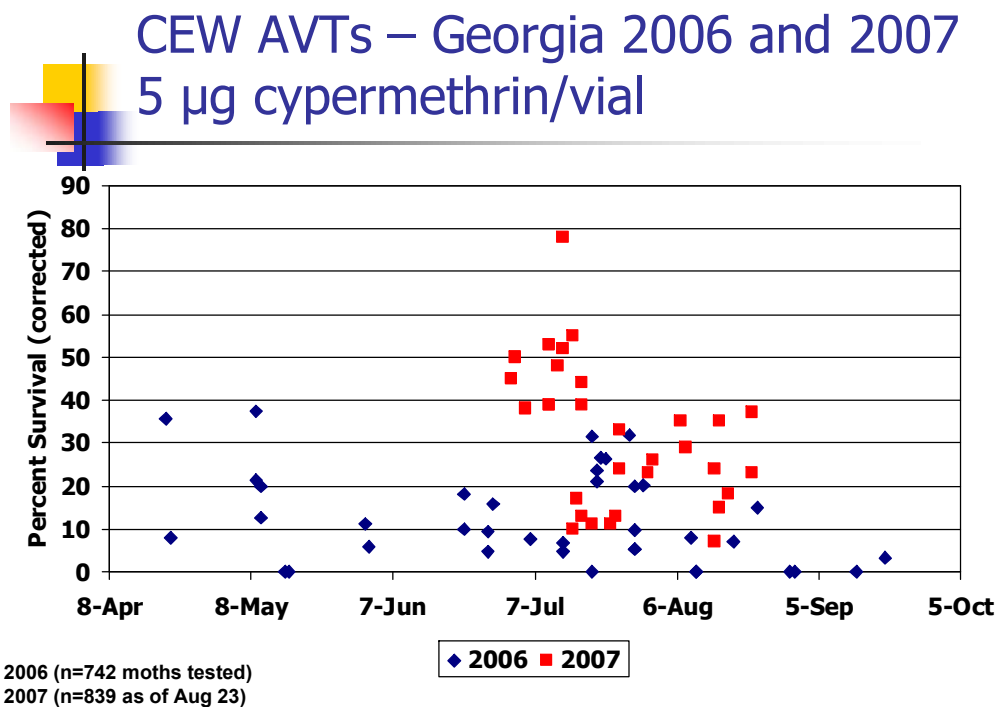
August 23, 2007

**COTTON PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER #11**

**COTTON SITUATION:** The Georgia Weekly Crop Progress and Condition Report for the week ending August 19<sup>th</sup> listed the crop as 8 percent opening bolls. Excessive heat and lack of moisture is pushing this crop rapidly to maturity.

**INSECT SITUATION:** Corn earworm, stink bugs, and fall armyworm continue to be reported at varying levels depending on location. Silverleaf whiteflies continue to be addressed by growers in some areas. Early maturing cotton is becoming less attractive to many pests; insect activity will likely be concentrated in green lush late maturing fields.

**Corn Earworm:** Corn earworm (CEW) infestations have declined in some areas but moderate to high populations continue to be observed in others. In general CEW infestations have been much higher during 2007 compared with recent years. Scouts should monitor late maturing fields which are green and lush closely. Control of CEW with pyrethroids has generally been good. However a few problem fields have been reported. We have continued to monitor CEW susceptibility to pyrethroids using the Adult Vial Test. Survival has not been as high in pyrethroid treated vials in recent weeks compared with early July measures. The figure below summarizes AVTs for 2006 and 2007.



**Stink Bugs:** Stink bug numbers and boll damage levels remain variable. This variability is why we should scout all fields and treat on an as needed basis. We have a significant portion of our crop which will be late maturing, stink bugs may concentrate on these later maturing fields. It is likely that we will be managing (scouting and treating on an as needed basis) stink bugs to the end of September in some fields.

**Whiteflies:** Whiteflies continue to build in some areas. It is important that controls are initiated on a timely basis. Be sure to monitor hairy leaf cottons closely for whiteflies. Hairy leaf varieties are preferred by whiteflies when compared with smooth leaf varieties.

**Terminating Insecticide Applications:** The decision to terminate insect controls can be challenging in some fields but a few basic considerations will assist in that decision. When evaluating a field a grower must first identify the last boll population which will significantly contribute to yield. Once the last boll population is determined the boll development or approximate boll age should be estimated. Depending on the insect pest, bolls are relatively safe from attack at varying stages of boll development.

The table below lists approximate boll age in days which bolls should be protected for selected insect pests. When temperatures plant development slows down due to cool temperatures, subsequent boll age values will increase. It is assumed that the field is relatively insect pest free when the decision to terminate insecticide application for a pest is made.

<b>Insect Pest(s)</b>	<b>Approx. Boll Age (days)</b>
Plant Bugs	15
Corn Earworm Tobacco Budworm	18-20 bolls fully sized
Stink Bugs	25
Fall Armyworm	bolls near maturity
Foliage Feeders soybean looper beet armyworm southern armyworm	bolls mature
Sucking Insects whiteflies aphids	harvest (honeydew accumulation on lint)

**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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