

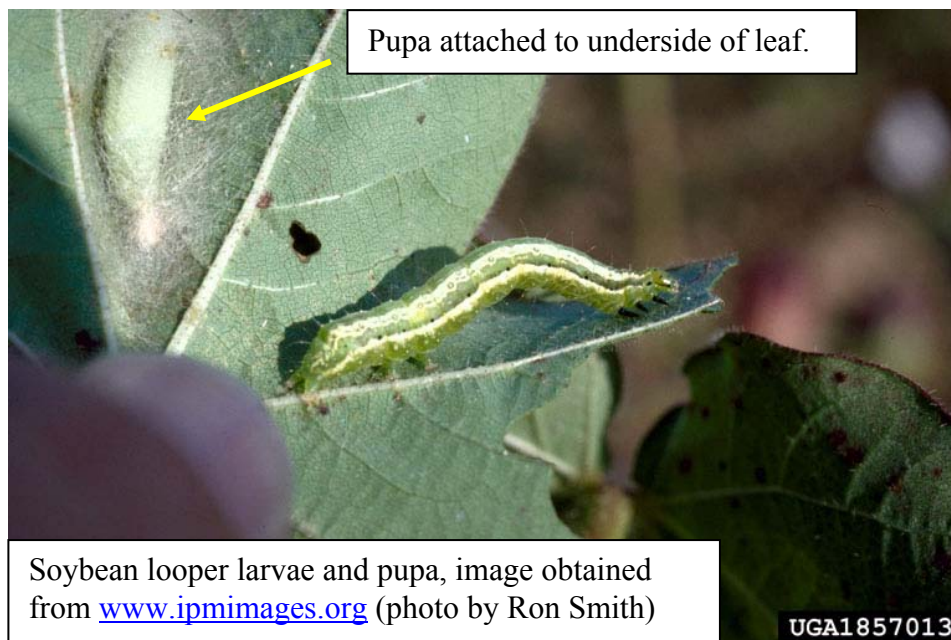
August 26, 2004

COTTON PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER #12

COTTON SITUATION: The Georgia Weekly Weather and Crops Report for the week ending August 22nd listed the crop as 100 percent setting bolls and 16 percent bolls opening. Three percent of the crop is rated very poor, 12 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 42 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. We would anticipate some harvest aids being applied this week on early-planted fields.

INSECT SITUATION: Insect pest populations remain variable when looking at the state as a whole. However, parts of Georgia (especially southwest) have experienced relatively heavy pressure for several weeks. Insects are concentrating on green lush fields as some fields are no longer attractive.

Soybean Looper: Reports of soybean loopers (SBL) have been received from various areas in the state. Only a few fields have required treatment to date. Loopers initially feed in the lower canopy. Some feeding may actually be beneficial in rank fields. However, as SBL continue feeding (working their way into the middle and upper canopy) treatment may be required if immature bolls are still present. We must protect foliage to properly fill and mature immature bolls. Several insecticides are available which will provide good control. Decisions to treat should be based on defoliation. If SBL larvae populations approach 8 per row foot, treatment is often necessary. Large larvae can consume large amounts of foliage in a few days.



Fall Armyworm: Fall armyworm (FAW) have been reported in southwest and east Georgia. FAW are fruit feeders, feeding primarily on bolls and in blooms in the middle and lower canopy. Successful control is based on early detection. Small FAW larvae often etch the inner surface of boll bracts prior to penetrating the base of developing bolls. The threshold for FAW is about 2X that used for corn earworm. When detected early, high rates of pyrethroids provide fair control.



Spider Mites: Spider mites are infesting sporadic fields in several areas. Spider mite infestations can be recognized by stippling, bronzing, or reddening of leaves (especially near the leaf veins and leaf folds). If these symptoms are observed, examine the underside of leaves to confirm the presence of spider mites. When treating other pests in fields where spider mites are present, consideration should be given to selecting an insecticide which has mite activity. In fields where mites are uniformly distributed across the entire field, treatment for mites may be needed.



Beet and Southern Armyworms: Beet and southern armyworms have similar feeding habits. Each lays eggs in masses, and upon hatching, larvae feed gregariously. Proper identification is important. Pyrethroids and other caterpillar insecticides provide good control of southern armyworm.



Small southern armyworm feeding gregariously. Initial feeding symptoms appear similar to a beet armyworm hit.



Beet armyworm larvae are easily identified by the presence of a black dot directly above the second pair of true legs.

Boll Feeding Bugs: Boll feeding bug (stink bugs and plant bugs) infestations remain patchy. Some fields are exceeding the threshold of 20 percent internal boll damage and others are not. Scout all fields and treat on an as-needed basis.

Tobacco Budworm and Corn Earworm: Mixed populations of both tobacco budworm and corn earworm continue to be observed across the state. On non-Bt cotton, scouts must be observant for moth activity so we know if we are dealing with tobacco budworm, a mixed population, or corn earworm. When tobacco budworm is present at treatable numbers, a non-pyrethroid insecticide should be used. We have seen poor control of TBW with pyrethroids in several areas. Most of the egg lay is occurring on late-planted cotton which is still green and lush.

Last Cotton Pest Management Newsletter: This is the last issue of the Cotton Pest Management Newsletter for the 2004 season. Thanks to everyone who provided information and updates on the current insect situations. Have a safe and profitable harvest season.

INSECT UPDATES: Check the **Cotton Insect Hotline (1-800-851-2847)** for updates on current insect conditions. The Cotton Pest Management Newsletter is also posted on the UGA Cotton Homepage at: <http://www.griffin.peachnet.edu/caes/cotton/>

Sincerely,

Phillip Roberts
Extension Entomologist