



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

August 28, 2008

COTTON PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER #12

COTTON SITUATION: The Georgia Weekly Crop Progress and Condition Report for the week ending August 24th listed the crop as 11 percent bolls opening which is slightly behind the 5-year average of 15 percent. Tropical Storm Fay brought heavy rainfall in many areas of southwest Georgia. Weather stations maintained by the Georgia Automated Environmental Monitoring Network (<http://www.georgiaweather.net>) recorded over 10 inches of rain in Arlington, Attapulgus, Cairo, Camilla, Dixie, and Newton. We have heard several reports of 15+ inches of rain in SW Georgia. Damage from the storm is significant in some areas where heavy and extended rainfall occurred.

INSECT SITUATION: Stink bug numbers have been reported at treatable levels in various areas during the past 2 weeks. Corn earworm and fall armyworm have also been reported but on a more localized basis. A few reports of cotton aphids have been received (reports of the naturally occurring fungus which causes populations to crash have also been received). Whiteflies continue to be observed in localized areas, but numbers have been slow to build to date; monitor whiteflies closely in infested fields. Some cotton has approached the time where insecticide applications can be terminated for certain pests, whereas some cotton will remain susceptible until late September.

Cotton & Peanut Research Field Day, September 10, Tifton: Mark your calendars for the Cotton and Peanut Research Field Day scheduled for September 10, 2008 on the UGA Tifton Campus. The field day will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the UGA Lang/Rigdon Farm and conclude at the UGA Gibbs Farm by 4:00 p.m. Lunch will be co-sponsored by the Georgia Cotton Commission and the Georgia Peanut Commission. **Please R.S.V.P. by or before September 5, 2008 to aid with lunch preparations by contacting Debbie Rutland at (229) 386-3424.**

Directions to UGA Lang/Rigdon Farm

From the UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center (exit #64 on I-75)

1. Hwy 41 north approx. 0.8 miles
2. Turn left on Zion Hope Road and travel approx. 1.4 miles to 4-way Stop
3. Turn right on Carpenter Road and travel approx. 1.6 miles
4. Turn left on Rigdon Aultman Rd, Lang/Rigdon Farm entrance is on the right.

Stink Bugs: Reports of increased numbers of adult brown and southern green stink bugs have been received. These migrations to cotton and other crops occur as bugs are in search of more suitable host plants. In the coming weeks, late planted lush, green cotton should be monitored closely and treated as needed. It is probable that late maturing cotton may concentrate bugs in localized areas. Double cropped cotton and June cotton will remain susceptible to stink bugs for

several more weeks. Bolls are susceptible to stink bug injury for about 25 days; bolls of this age are difficult to squash between your thumb and forefinger.

Corn Earworm: CEW numbers are low to moderate in most areas; however they remain a potential pest in many fields. Pay close attention to blooms, bloom tagged bolls, and small bolls near the uppermost white bloom for developing CEW in Bt cotton. Pyrethroids have generally provided good control of CEW. Avoid low rates of pyrethroids. Like stink bugs, CEW will also find late maturing lush green fields more attractive than cutout fields. Bolls are susceptible to CEW for about 20 days; bolls of this age are fully sized.

Aphids: Aphids have been reported from a few areas. Numbers have increased in some fields, but have generally crashed soon thereafter due to a naturally occurring fungus. It is rare for aphids to be a problem during late season in Georgia. However, honeydew may accumulate on open bolls and be problematic in fields heavily infested with aphids.

Whiteflies: Whiteflies have been observed in localized areas for the past several weeks. To date numbers have been slow to build. Rainfall associated with Tropical Storm Fay temporarily suppressed adult whitefly populations. In fields where whiteflies are present, beneficial insects should be conserved by only spraying other pests on an as needed basis. 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 the majority of leaves sampled (5th expanded leaf below the terminal) are infested with immatures. Whiteflies are a potential pest until leaves have dropped.

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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