

August 31, 2006

*COTTON PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER #11 (Last Issue)*

**COTTON SITUATION:** The Georgia Weekly Crop Progress and Condition Report for the week ending August 27<sup>th</sup> listed the crop as 34 percent with open bolls compared with the 5 year average of 22 percent. Picking has started in a few areas.

**INSECT SITUATION:** Cotton insect pests have been sporadic during the past month. As a whole we have not experienced widespread problems, but localized problems with various pests (corn earworm, tobacco budworm, fall armyworm, stink bugs, plant bugs, spider mites, and whiteflies) have been reported.

**Stink Bugs:** During the past week, reports of treatable levels of stink bugs have increased on cotton which is still susceptible to stink bug attack. As more and more fields become less attractive to stink bugs, we may see numbers concentrated in green lush fields. Continue to scout and treat fields for stink bugs until the last harvestable bolls that will significantly contribute to yield are about 25 days of age.

**Corn Earworm:** Corn earworms have been sporadic during August. Based on populations observed during July, we would have expected more problems during August. Bolls are relatively safe from corn earworm attack when they are about 20 days of age.

**Fall Armyworm:** Fall armyworm is also sporadic. When detected early (less than ¼ inch in length), pyrethroids at high rates provide fair to good control. During recent weeks, we have received several reports of Diamond, which is an insect growth regulator, providing good control of fall armyworm. The threshold for fall armyworm is about 2X that of corn earworm.

**Whiteflies:** Silverleaf whiteflies have increased dramatically during the past week to 10 days in some areas of Tift and Colquitt counties. Silverleaf whitefly problems are generally localized in these two counties and are most likely to occur during drought prone years. If conditions remain conducive for whitefly development (hot and dry), they will be difficult and expensive to manage on late maturing fields. Extended periods of rain are not conducive for whitefly development. As a whole, this year's crop is maturing early and whitefly numbers built later than expected considering the conditions, so some fields will avoid major problems. In fields that will require several more weeks to mature, whitefly management should be a priority. Conserve beneficials when possible. In fields that are infested with whiteflies, treat other pests only if absolutely necessary. Knack, which is an insect growth regulator, and Assail have been the two most consistent treatments for control of silverleaf whitefly. Knack is slow acting and must be used before whiteflies are out of control. However, Knack provides good residual. Assail would be a better choice if a quick knockdown is needed but does not

provide the residual control compared with Knack.

**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.ugacotton.com>

Sincerely,

Phillip Roberts  
Extension Entomologist