

September 8, 2005

COTTON PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER #14 (final issue)

COTTON SITUATION: The Georgia Weekly Weather and Crops Report for the week ending Sept 4th listed the crop as 20 percent open. This is behind the five year average of 44 percent. As a whole the crop looks promising. There is a fall feel in the air.

INSECT SITUATION: Corn earworm, soybean loopers, and stink bugs continue to be treated on some late planted fields. Continue to scout and treat as needed until fields are no longer susceptible to yield loss.

Soybean Looper: Soybean looper populations have been high in some areas for several weeks. If immature bolls (which you plan to harvest) are present, the foliage which feeds these bolls must be protected. Steward at 7 ozs/acre has provided very good control and quick knockdown of soybean loopers. The insect growth regulators Intrepid and Diamond have also provided good control to date but tend to have slower activity (3-4 days until mortality). Both Intrepid and Diamond have good residual activity.

Corn Earworm (Bloom-Tag Larvae in Bt Cotton): Corn earworm numbers have been high in some fields and multiple insecticide applications have been needed in some fields. Control of corn earworm has not been excellent with pyrethroids. When treating large corn earworms, high rates of pyrethroids should be used. Many of these escapes are in bolls in the mid-canopy, thus good coverage and penetration of the canopy with sprays is a must. Bolls are susceptible to corn earworm until approximately 20 days of age (bolls of this age are fully sized).

Stink Bugs: Stink bug infestations have been higher than last year since mid-July. In several areas, 2 to 4 applications have been made for stink bugs. For the most part, growers have done a good job controlling stink bugs. Growers and scouts should monitor late planted fields closely as stink bugs may concentrate on these fields as maturing fields become less attractive. Continue to monitor boll damage and treat as needed. Bolls are susceptible to yield loss from stink bugs until they are 25 days of age.

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,

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