



Cotton Insect Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue #4

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

31 May 2007

Crop Situation

DRY!!! The NASS had us at about 85% planted on 27 May 2007, equal to the 5-yr average of planted acres.

News from Above the Lakes

No news to report this week. This is your turn for input – send your comments and observations to me.

News from Below the Lakes

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Thrips

I am amazed at how well some of our cotton is doing under the dry conditions. The picture below on the right literally looks like cotton growing on the moon! Other than temperatures, lack of air, and 1/6 of earth's gravity, we are not talking about much difference between conditions on the moon! It's dry! The pictures on the left and center show the typical injury from thrips with the silvery appearance due to ruptured cells and the crinkled new growth on the terminal and 1st true leaf. The plants below were planted without protection from thrips and had 3-6 or more thrips per plant with immatures present. In a commercial field, I would plan to treat at that level pretty soon. Recommended options for foliar insecticides are provided below again this week. Cotton plants in this situation are struggling to grow. Without rain, they will continue to grow slowly and be subject to continued injury from thrips.



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THRIPS (FOLIAR SPRAYS)

Product	Product/acre	Lb ai/acre	Acre/gal	REI	PHI	Comments
dicotophos (R) Bidrin 8 E	1.6-3.2 oz	0.1-0.2	40-80	6 d	30 d	3.2 oz limit pre-square
acephate Orthene 97 Orthene 90 S Acephate 90 S	2.5-3.0 oz 2.67-3.2 oz 2.67-3.2 oz	0.15-0.18	- - -	24 hr	21 d	
dimethoate Dimethoate 4 EC	4-8 oz	0.125-0.25	16-32	48 hr	14 d	
methamidophos (R) Monitor 4 EC	3.2-6.4 oz	0.1-0.2	20-40	48 hr	50 d	

Generally a soil insecticide used at planting will protect seedling plants from the severe stunting that is characteristic of thrips injury. Occasionally, however, conditions will be unfavorable for proper uptake of systemic insecticides (too cool, dry soil, excessive moisture, etc.) and plants can be severely damaged. **Foliar treatments will be most effective when applied to cotton seedlings prior to unfolding of the second true leaf.** At this growth stage a foliar insecticide treatment may be needed when two or more thrips are found per plant. Shake each plant (randomly select 25 or more) into a coffee cup or a similar utensil to facilitate counting. When most plants have severely damaged growing points and immature thrips are present, one or more foliar treatments may be needed to allow the plants to resume normal growth and development. Examine plants 5-7 days after the initial treatment, and treat again if immatures are still present on most plants. When the newly unfolded leaves of infested plants are free of damage, and plants appear to be growing at a normal rate, further applications of insecticides will have little benefit. Treatments applied beyond the four-leaf stage of growth may actually be counter productive, as these would likely reduce beneficial populations and result in early-season problems with other pests.

False Chinch Bugs

Remember that we are seeing false chinch bug (FCB), *Nysius raphanus* Howard (Heteroptera: Lygaeidae), infesting some cotton. They do this typically when conditions are dry, especially in minimum tillage operations. They are generally seen by the hundreds or thousands and can be an alarming sight. See last year’s newsletter # 3 (18 May 2006) at <http://www.clemson.edu/edisto/cotton/cotton.htm> for more FCB information.

To see some interesting videos with false chinch bugs, go to the Cotton Insect Videos link on our cotton webpage: <http://www.clemson.edu/edisto/cotton/cotton.htm> (FCB videos provided by Phillip McKibben and Dr. Angus Catchot – Mississippi.) <http://msucares.com/insects/videos/index.html>

Burrower Bugs

Richard McDaniel, crop consultant in Burke County, GA, and Dr. Phillip Roberts, entomologist with UGA, sent me these photos of burrower bugs on cotton seedlings. The [whitemargined] burrower bug, *Sehirus cinctus*, typically is found above the ground level on plants where it feeds frequently on nettles and mints. Henbit was likely in the field below not too long ago. Apparently, they are drier than us, and these bugs are feeding on the only green plants around (here cotton). It was reported that the seedlings in these shots all had Avicta Complete Pak seed treatment at planting. Seemingly, the seed treatment is killing a significant number of them because

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they are dying on the plants. If this is true, our preventative materials for thrips are definitely active in the plants. Nevertheless, here is something else that you need to keep an eye on during early season.



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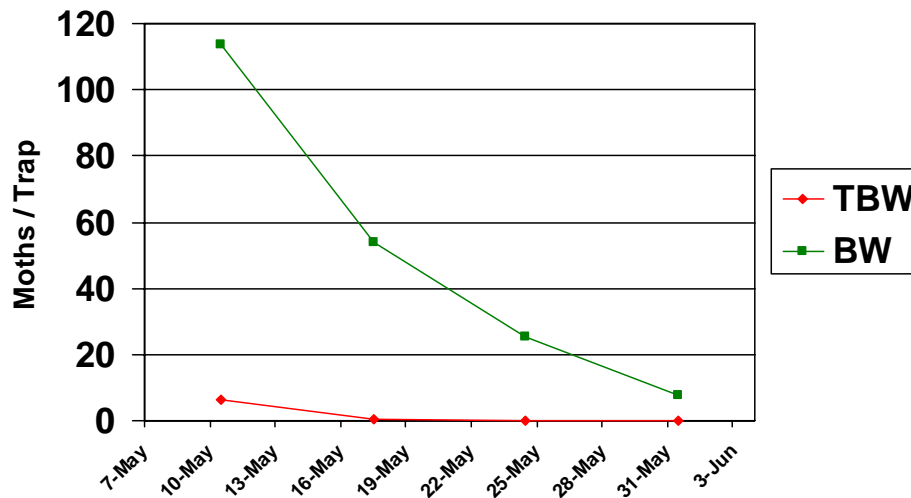
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Tobacco Budworm & Bollworm

Captures of adult tobacco budworm and bollworm in pheromone traps at EREC are pictured below. We detected no tobacco budworms, and levels of bollworm capture continue to decline. We are about where we were last year at this time in terms of number per trap. I would expect numbers of bollworm moths to start increasing within the next week or two, and we should see another peak in the bollworm flight in less than a month.

Pheromone Trap Capture (EREC - 2007)



Printed Cotton Insect Recommendations

Copies of the newly revised “Cotton Insect Management” (IC 97) recommendations are available at your local county office. You can visit the following website for an electronic version of the recommendations:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/ENTOM/IC97.PDF>

Need More Information?

Log on to the following webpages to view important cotton management recommendations, data, and historical cotton insect newsletters:

<http://www.clemson.edu/edisto/cotton/cotton.htm>

<http://www.clemson.edu/scg/ipm/cotton.html>



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeremy K. Greene".

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