



Cotton Insect Newsletter

Letter #2

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

10 May 2006

*****REMINDER*****

COTTON SCOUT SCHOOLS

5 JUNE AT EDISTO RESEARCH & EDUCATION CENTER IN BLACKVILLE

6 JUNE AT PEE DEE RESEARCH & EDUCATION CENTER IN FLORENCE

FREE PROGRAM, LUNCH, AND PRIZES

Newsletter Update

This is the second cotton insect newsletter of 2006. If you missed the first one, we will have it archived on a webpage soon. I will provide you with that link in the coming weeks. Because I will be out of town the remainder of this week, I am sending this issue out early this week. Most newsletters will be sent out on Thursday of each week. Please distribute copies to all interested, and please provide input for the newsletter. There are many more eyes out there than mine, so if you see something interesting in the cotton field concerning insects or anything else, let me know about it. Send me your comments or pictures (pictures speak volumes, right?), and I will include them, providing you with credit for the observations.

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Crop Situation

The current situation has changed a little. I have heard that if you don't like the weather, just wait a minute. That seems to be true more and more these days. We went from warm and dry to cool and moist. The NASS had us at about 17% planted at the end of April, ahead of the 5-yr average of 13%.

News from Above the Lakes

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

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Thrips

As mentioned, the current weather situation has changed. It is now cool and cloudy, and we have had some rain. As you know, cotton becomes more susceptible to injury from thrips under these conditions because it is not growing as it would in warm, sunny weather. Be sure to check for thrips on emerged cotton under these conditions, especially during the cotyledon stage and 1st couple of true leaves. I like to use a big white plastic or foam cup to sample for thrips in the field. I do this by quickly pulling a plant and shaking it upside down in the cup, hitting the plant on the sides of the cup. You dislodge thrips into the cup where they can easily be seen and counted. The white color allows you to see even the smallest immatures (if you look closely). Pull multiple plants (at least 5-10 in several spots), and repeat the counts. Pay particular attention to the numbers of immature thrips. Those numbers indicate performance of your preventative treatment for thrips (Avicta, Temik, Gaucho Grande, Cruiser, in-furrow sprays, etc.). If you end up with 2-5 thrips (most immatures) per plant with visible injury to the growing points of plants, the field might require treatment with insecticide. **DO NOT SPRAY ON INJURY SYMPTOMS ONLY.** Make sure you check for active populations of thrips before treating. You may be observing old damage to the plants! Under cooler conditions, it takes a little more time to “grow out” of that injury. There are several materials available that provide adequate control of thrips. Those include Orthene or acephate (2.5-3.5 oz/a), Bidrin (1.6-3.2 oz/a), Dimethoate (4-8 oz/a), and others. If needed, treatment with insecticide usually provides enough time for cotton to “outgrow” thrips. Once cotton gets some of the warmer weather on the way, it will not look back.

Good WebSites:

Go to the following websites for information on:

- Photos of insects: <http://entweb.clemson.edu/museum/index.htm> (Interactive, etc.)
- <http://www.ipmimages.org/> (Searchable images)
- Pesticide information: <http://entweb.clemson.edu/pesticid/> (Applicator information, etc.)
- <http://www.cdms.net/manuf/manuf.asp?t=1> (Labels)
- Entomological supplies: http://www.co2sprayers.com/product_database.html (Spraying equipment)
- <http://www.gemplers.com/> (Sweep nets, magnifying lenses, traps, lures, etc.)
- <http://www.bioquip.com/>
- <http://www.bio-serv.com/>
- <http://www.trece.com/>
- <http://www.herconenviron.com/products.stm>

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Good WebSites (continued):

Go to the following websites for information on:

Entomological supplies (cont):

<http://www.forestry-suppliers.com/>

<http://www.greatlakesipm.com/>

<http://www.insectlore.com/store.html>

<http://wardsci.com/Default.asp>

<http://www.educationalscience.com/>

Need More Information?

Log on to the following webpage to view important cotton management recommendations, data, and historical cotton insect newsletters: <http://www.clemson.edu/scg/ipm/cotton.html>

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.
Cotton Entomologist



Visit our website at:
<http://www.clemson.edu>

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