The University of Georgia

Effingham County Extension
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Cooperative Extension

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Effingham County AG News

Hot, dry conditions continue to plague our area even as we enter the month of August. Some pop up showers have offered some relief in a few areas – but they are FEW. I pray that you all will be blessed with timely rains throughout the rest of the growing season and that you will have a bountiful harvest.

Cotton

To date stink bug infestations have been sporadic; but in general populations appear to be lower than normal. Use the *"Dynamic Threshold"* which is adjusted up or down based on the number of stink bug susceptible bolls to properly schedule stink bug insecticide applications. During the 3rd, 4th, and 5th week of bloom sprays should be applied when 10-15 percent boll damage is observed. During the 2nd and 6th week of bloom treat at 20 percent internal boll damage. During and after the 7th week of bloom the threshold is raised to 30 percent since fewer bolls are present which are susceptible to stink bug damage. The *"Dynamic Threshold"* assumes a normal fruiting pattern. Many dryland fields do not have a normal fruiting pattern this year and thus the specific treatment levels by week of bloom may not apply. However, the concept of slightly lowering or raising the threshold based on the number of susceptible bolls present still holds true.

Corn earworm infestations are light to moderate depending on location. If CEW larva reach ¼ inch in length, it is likely they will continue to develop and damage multiple fruiting sites. Scouts should pay close attention to blooms, bloom tagged bolls, and small bolls near the uppermost white bloom. When escapes occur in Bt cotton this is the area of the plant we typically observe them. Treatment is recommended when 8 larvae (1/4 inch in length or greater) are found per 100 plants.

Soybeans

A timely application of Dimilin and Boron can increase your soybean yield. The best time to apply Dimilin – Boron foliar spray is when the soybeans are in the full-bloom (R2) to early pod – fill (R3) stages. Pod elongation usually does not begin until 10-14 days after full bloom. An application of 2 oz. per acre Dimilin plus ¼ lb. per acre Boron should enable you to increase yield, control the velvetbean caterpillar, suppress the soybean looper, increase insecticide effectiveness if loopers develop, and increase potential profitability of your soybeans.
There is no need to apply more than ¼ lb. per acre of actual Boron. Rates above this amount can cause foliar burn.

Soybean Rust Report (Updated information related to soybean rust can be found at http://sbr.ipmpipe.org/cgi-bin/sbr/public.cgi)

United States Soybean Rust Commentary (updated: 07/26/11)

In 2011, soybean rust has only been found in four counties in Florida and in one county in Louisiana in the continental United States. The most recent report of soybean rust in the region was reported on July

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25th on kudzu in Iberia Parish (south central), Louisiana; this is the first find for the state in 2011. The disease was detected in parts of Mexico earlier this year but no new reports have occurred in recent months.

Kudzu Bugs Are in Effingham County

I have observed Kudzu bugs on kudzu and soybeans for the first time ever this year in Effingham County. Kudzu bugs have been confirmed in 122 counties in Georgia, all 46 counties in South Carolina, 38 counties in North Carolina, and 2 counties in Alabama. **WHEN TO TREAT:** It is suggested that **3-5 kudzu bugs per plant** be used as an action threshold. Kudzu bug infestations tend to be higher on field margins. When scouting fields be sure to walk the entire field and get an estimate of the overall infestation. When large migrations are occurring, reinfestations of adults may occur 7 to 14 days following treatment. When reproduction is occurring in fields it is likely that the threshold of 3-5 bugs (adults and/or immatures) per plant will be exceeded. Nymphs have a long developmental time (about 6 weeks); if nymphal infestations are not controlled they will be feeding on plants for an extended time.

Kudzu bugs are not a difficult insect to kill, however reinfestations of adults can occur fairly soon after application. Insecticides used for the control of stink bugs in soybeans should provide good control of kudzu bugs.

Peanuts

How long does it take a Peg to Reach Harvestable Pod?

One question I get quite often is at what point (days after planting) is it too late for a peg that is just entering the soil to make a pod that will be harvested and grade out as a sound mature kernel? It depends on the cultivar but for the most part, and for mid maturing cultivars like Georgia Greener and Georgia-06G, any peg that enters the soil after 90 days after planting will not have time to reach harvestable pod age/size.

Think of it this way. When you look at the Hull-Scrape Maturity Profile Chart you will notice it has 25 columns, with 2 columns representing one week, or a total of 12.5 weeks (87 days) from when a peg enters the soil until it reaches optimal maturity. If you look from left to right on the maturity profile chart, it takes about 12-14 columns (6-7 weeks, or about 45-50 days) from when a peg enters the soil until it reaches a stage of a “sound mature kernel” pod that will be harvested. If you have a field of a mid maturing cultivar that is at 90 days after planting, then pegs just beginning to swell would need a minimum of 45 days to get to 135 days after planting, which is just about time for harvest. For mid-late cultivars like Florida-07 and Georgia-07W, or late maturing cultivars like Georgia-02C, you can extend the time to about 100 days.

Bottom line is that after about 90 days after planting, any pegs that enter the soil will probably not make it to harvest. (John Beasley-Peanut Agronomist)

Forages

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Reports of armyworms in central and southwest Georgia have been reported recently. Take a moment to scout your hay fields and pastures for worms.

In late summer, almost every year, caterpillars invade pastures, hay fields, and turfgrass throughout the state. Particularly in pastures and hay fields, damage may be severe before the worms are noticed. The grass is not killed, but hay yield and forage can be reduced to almost nothing over whole fields in extreme cases. The damage to established turf is mostly aesthetic, but newly sodded or sprigged areas can be more severely damaged or even killed. In late summer and fall, most of the worms are fall armyworms (FAW). The adult moths are active at night and females lay eggs in batches of 50 to several hundred. Eggs hatch in 2 - 10 days, and the young larvae begin to feed on leaf tissue. Damage from small larvae may at first look like skeletonizing, but as the worms grow, the entire leaf is consumed. Armyworms are most active early and late in the day, spending the hotter hours down near the soil in the shade. Larvae feed for 2 to 3 weeks before pupating in the soil. Moths emerge 10 - 14 days later.

While fall armyworms are the most likely caterpillars to invade pastures, they are not the only ones. True armyworms damage pastures in late spring some years, but disappear as the weather warms. The damage is feeding but can significantly reduce forage or delay the first cutting in hay fields. Unlike FAW, true armyworm moths can overwinter throughout the state. The worms closely resemble FAW and treatment, if needed, is the same. More widespread and common in pastures throughout the state is the striped grassworm looper, Mocis latipes. This worm is easily distinguished from armyworms by its "looping" method of crawling. Size is similar to armyworms (full grown larvae are about 1 ½" inch long), but Mocis has many stripes running lengthwise down the body, including the head. Moths are active throughout the growing season, and populations can build to levels that rival FAW outbreaks. When mature, Mocis worms have the distinctive habit of pupating up on the grass plant, in a folded leaf, rather than in the soil like armyworms.

Few insecticides are labeled for use on caterpillars in pastures. Familiar stand-bys are Lannate and Sevin. Lannate requires a 3-day harvest or 7-day grazing interval. For Sevin, the interval is 14 days. More recent additions to the list are Tracer and the insect growth regulator Dimilin. Tracer is labeled at 1-2 oz. per acre, and the only grazing restriction is the cows should not graze until sprays have dried. Pre-harvest interval for hay is three days. Dimilin works by disrupting the molting process, and will not kill the worms quickly. The 2 oz. rate is very effective on small (<½" or so) worms, but less effective as the worms get larger. It is not a rescue treatment for heavy infestations of large armyworms. There is no grazing restriction for Dimilin.

In any case, if the hay is close to ready, cut it before treating. It also helps to increase your spray volume as much as possible, particularly with Sevin on larger worms. Recognize that very large worms are tough to kill and the best option may be to wait until the next generation and target the smaller worms. Sometimes, the next generation will move on and no treatment will be necessary. (Will Hudson – Extension Entomologist)

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For those of you who are planning on overseeding pastures or planting small grains for grazing this fall, be sure to scout for armyworms. If armyworms invade the small grain seedling in the early stages, they can potentially destroy it. Do not let armyworms destroy the investment of your winter grazing forage and delay the date the cattle will be allowed to graze.

Upcoming Dates of Interest:

2011

August 15	Deadline to purchase Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) crop insurance for perennial crops, forage crops for hay and grazing, carrots, and all value loss crops such as Christmas trees, aquaculture, sod and nursery - FSA Office
August 16	Southeast Georgia REC Crops Field Day - Midville
September 7	UGA Cotton and Peanut Research Field Day - Tifton
December 1	Deadline to purchase NAP for honey - FSA Office

2012

January 31	Deadline to purchase NAP for all annually planted crops, both spring and fall of 2012 - FSA Office

If I can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 754-8040 (office) or 429-8004 (mobile).