



FIELD CROP NEWS



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Cotton

Stink Bug Damage on Cotton:

In my widely scattered stink bug tests, damage to quarter sized bolls is dropping to well below threshold levels. Additionally, in many cotton fields, most bolls are now beyond the stink bug safe stage of 3 1/2 weeks old. For cotton fields showing 3 or less nodes above first position white flower, damage thresholds can probably be raised to the 20 to 40+ percent level without a noticeable yield loss. A few widely scattered, rapidly growing cotton remains susceptible to bug damage, though they're getting few and far between.

Spider Mites on Cotton:

Spider mites are showing up throughout much of the state as the dry weather continues. In most cases, cotton is too far "cut out" to justify treatment. However, there also appears to be a couple of close treatment calls, that is very high mite and egg levels in some less mature cotton fields with significant reddening and large scale defoliation. If this is the case throughout much of a cotton field, treatment may be justified. If treatment is needed, Kelthane (now sold as generic dicofol) at a quart of product per acre appears to be the best bet here, although another product Oberon has shown promise in some 2005 tests. It would appear that treatment would be justified in very few situations.

From: Jack S. Bachelier, Extension Entomologist



Soybean

Soybean Rust Update

Soybean rust is starting to develop at a faster pace to the south of North Carolina. Asiatic Soybean Rust has been confirmed near St. Matthews, in Calhoun County, South Carolina. One lesion was found on one of 25 leaves on a maturity group V soybean at stage R5 (full sized pods with small beans); no lesions were found on the group IV variety at the same site.

This find is approximately 110 miles from Charlotte, 320 miles from Elizabeth City, 145 miles from Fayetteville, 210 miles from Murphy, 195 miles from Raleigh, 250 miles from Washington (North Carolina), 170 miles from Wilmington, and 175 miles from Winston-Salem. There have been many new finds of rust in Louisiana and Mississippi along the River and new finds in Texas. The other confirmed finds of rust on soybeans since our August 7th update were all 500 miles or more from Raleigh.

Soybean producers in the Charlotte area should be alert for rust moving any closer. If rust gets within 100 miles, and the soybeans do not yet have fairly good-sized seeds in the pods, we suggest spraying with a strobilurin fungicide. Soybeans that have full sized soybeans in the pods (stage R6) before rust is identified in the field will probably mature before rust causes significant yield loss, and it is illegal to spray any of our fungicides that late in soybeans' development. As infrequently as rust affects soybeans that have not started blooming, we also would not spray soybeans that have not started blooming yet.

Although it has been hot and dry through much of the Mid-South and Delta, recent storms in northern Florida and southern Georgia may result in increasing detections of soybean rust. Since 2006 soybean production in Florida and Georgia is estimated at only about 155,000 acres, high numbers of spores are not anticipated coming from soybean at this time. Although rust is likely to spread over the next several weeks in South Carolina with the recent rains, dry weather is the forecast for the next week or so, which may inhibit development of rust. South Carolina typically has around 400,000 acres of soybean so rapid spread from this source is unlikely since sources of spores are still weak.

Management of Soybean Diseases with Fungicides: To Spray

Reasons why we don't recommend fungicides on a regular basis:

1. We can't predict the weather conditions for the next two to three weeks.
2. So far, we have not been able to validate "Plant Health" benefits of fungicides in North Carolina.
3. A number of fungicides are available for management of soybean foliar diseases. Typically yield responses of 1 to 2 bushels per acre are found in North Carolina, unless frogeye leaf spot or target spot are found in the field. There are a number of reasons why other states, particularly in the Delta, routinely report larger yield increases: 1) shift to the early production system, many varieties in the Delta are very susceptible to frogeye leaf spot, and soybean maturing in August are more vulnerable to fungi because of the hot humid environment at this time of year; 2) some diseases such as web blight and cercospora blight are more common in the Delta than in North Carolina; and 3) crop rotation is practiced less often in the Delta than in North Carolina.

Peanut

Hull Scrape Method for Determining Maturity of Peanuts

Sampling is done by lifting at least five adjacent plants from at least three representative field areas which can be dug in one day. Remove all pods from the plants until you have 180-220 pods from one sample. Once the sampling is done, the color of the middle hull is revealed by removing the outer layer of the hull by scraping or sand blasting. To scrape the pod, hold the pod so that the beak on the front end is pointed down and away from the body. Scrape away the outer layer of the hull beginning at the saddle area and extending back along the line where the hull splits when shelled. Pod tissue dries quickly after scraping, so the scraped pods should be kept wet until all pods are placed on the board. Place the pod on the profile board according to the relative degree that the primary color has progressed over the previous color. Along with colors, the profile board has a slope line and a harvest projection line. The leading edge of the sample profile should be approximately the same angle as the slope line on the profile board. The slope line represents the typical rate that pods are set. The rate of pod set for a given field, however, may be slightly greater or less than shown by the slope line. The projection line is set at a height of three pods. This represents the balance point for maturity risk management. Most normally developing crops can make up a loss of up to three mature pods (in a 200 pod sample) per half week by gain in the weight of immature pods. Scan the profile board from right to left. Find where the leading edge (slope) of the sample profile crosses the projection line. Read the days until digging directly below. This estimate is the middle of a three to four day range of possible harvest dates. If you need a profile board, please contact me at 910-862-4591 and I will get one to you.

Upcoming Events

- ▶ September 7, 2006: The 54th Annual NC Peanut Field Day in Lewiston.
- ▶ September 14, 2006: The Annual Cotton Field Day in Rocky Mount.

The Bladen County Cooperative Extension Service will be providing transportation to these events. Seating is limited so please reserve your seat by calling the Bladen County CES at 910-862-4591.

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Sincerely,



Ryan Harrelson
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Agriculture - Field Crops

