

IPM NEWSLETTER

Update for Field Crops and Their Pests

No. 9

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Announcement: **Cotton Scout School**, Friday, May 25th, 8:30 AM - 12:00 Noon, West Tennessee Research and Education Center. No registration fee is required, and a box lunch will be provided. An after lunch, go-to-the-field session is offered for those interested. The program will include basic information on plant growth and development, identification of insects and other common pests, symptomology, sampling techniques, etc.

Cotton Progress Report (Chris Main, Extension Cotton and Small Grains Specialist)

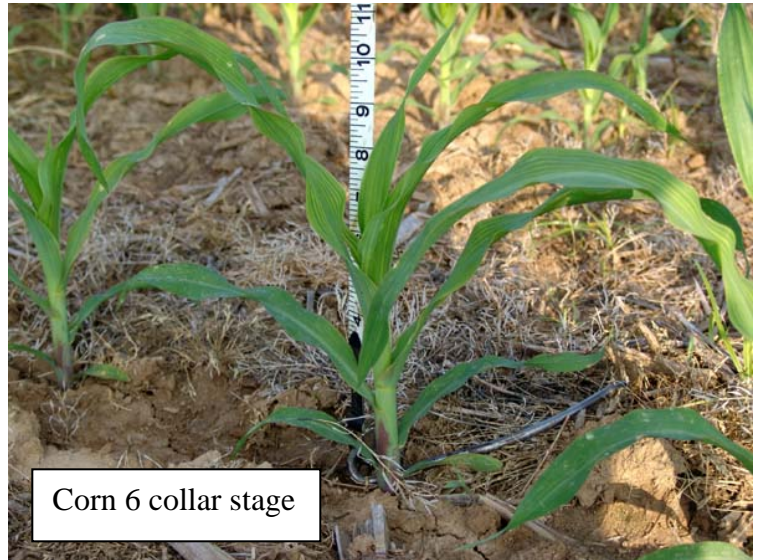
The Tennessee agricultural statistics agency reports that 23% of the cotton crop was planted as of May 6. This is about 7% ahead of 2006 and about 2% ahead of the five-year average of 21%. Warm temperatures and some beneficial rainfall last Friday have the cotton crop progressing along quite well. Not many calls this week since most people are planting at near capacity. One observation is that many fields are being planted deep to get the seed into moisture. Be aware that a heavy rain can cause crusting of the soil and reduced plant stand. Pay attention to the weather forecast when planting cotton seed deeper than what is normal for your soil type.

DD60 Accumulation (TASS and NWS data)

Location	4/20-5/04	4/20-5/04	5/04-5/10
Brownsville	201	153	101
Dyersburg	210	161	105
Fayetteville	199	152	89
Memphis	257	197	121
Milan	201	154	102

Weed Control (Larry Steckel, Extension Weed Specialist)

Corn Weed Control. It is evident that some of the preemergence (PRE) have run out of gas. Flushes of crabgrass, broadleaf signalgrass and Palmer amaranth started emerging in some fields between V3 to V6 corn. Corn throughout much of Tennessee is progressing quickly. Many fields will quickly pass the leaf collar or height stage restrictions where over-the-top herbicide applications can safely be made. Listed below are the corn maturity cut-off stages for some of the more popular POST herbicides. Some of these herbicides are also labeled for directed applications to prevent crop injury and provide better spray coverage. This year in particular with all the freeze damage it is best to determine corn maturity by the leaf or collar stage than by height. Be sure to read the herbicide label for other directions and restrictions.



Herbicide	Corn leaf collar stage	Corn height
Accent	6	20"
Atrazine	--	12"
Buctril	8	--
Clarity (>8 oz/A)	5	8"
Clarity (<8 oz/A)	--	36"
Callisto	--	30"
Distinct (4oz/A)	6	24"
Hornet	--	24"
Option	6	16"
Resolve	6	12"
Status	--	36"
Steadfast	7	20"
2,4-D	--	8"

Off-Target Issues. We have had more than our fair share of off-target herbicide movement this spring, most notably Gramoxone Inteon, glyphosate and dicamba. Wind is the primary way Gramoxone Inteon and glyphosate move off-target. Dicamba can move off-target by wind as well but it can also move under very low wind conditions by volatilizing back into the air after application and then settling in some nearby low lying area. Most crops that catch a little Gramoxone Inteon drift will look rough for a week or so but then grow out of it with little or no yield loss. Due to the fact that most of our row crops are Roundup Ready, glyphosate drift is not near the concern it used to be though it is still a threat to vegetables, vineyards, tobacco, etc. Dicamba, however at very low rates of off-target movement (1/10,000 the field use rate) can readily damage very sensitive crops like tomatoes, grapes and soybeans. The off-target injury from dicamba drift has been on the increase. This is not a surprise

as we have moved from almost no dicamba used for burndown 5 years ago to it being used on almost all our soybean and cotton acres today. In addition, dicamba used post in corn has increased, particularly this year. The reason for this increased use of dicamba is due to it being very effective controlling glyphosate-resistant horseweed.

The ways to decrease off-target movement of herbicides really comes down to common sense. First and foremost do not spray during times of high winds. That is sometimes much easier said than done when there becomes a short period of time to treat a lot of acres. I have to admit that I need to practice what I preach as there has been the occasion when I have sprayed when wind conditions were not optimal. However, it behooves us all to be good stewards. Another good way to avoid herbicide drift is to apply burndown applications in March prior to green up of a neighbor's sensitive grape crop or before vegetables are planted. The utilization of low drift nozzles and drift retardant agents can also help reduce herbicide drift. However, they will not perform miracles when the wind is blowing 20 mph.

Insect Issues (Scott Stewart and Russ Patrick, IPM Specialists)

General Comments: There are very few phone calls coming in about insect problems. We've had pretty ideal emergence conditions for our crops. This will alleviate potential thrips problems and other seedling pests that may occur in cotton, soybean or corn. Still, thrips and cutworms remain the biggest problems we are likely to have in our emerging cotton. It is important to walk your acres. With more people looking closely at corn, I've also had calls about thrips in this crop. Corn is not very sensitive to thrips injury because the growing point is protected from direct injury. The "book" says thrips are essentially a non-pest of corn unless small plants are under severe drought stress and thrips numbers are very high. The take home message is *don't get too excited about thrips in corn*. If you used a corn seed treatment such as Cruiser and Gaucho, they should do a good job at reducing thrips numbers. Poncho will also suppress thrips populations.

A few calls about **slugs** have come in, although the problem appears to be limited. My best recommendation is to not treat slug infestations unless populations are threatening stands. Often, slugs leave ragged holes in the leaves and cause little if any yield loss, but they can cut plants (pictured below) and reduce stands below acceptable levels when populations are high. Potential problems can occur in no-till cotton, soybean, and corn, and usually in fields with a lot of crop residue (e.g., following corn). Cotton is less tolerant of slugs than our other crops. The warm weather will help



plants outgrow potential slug problems. The only reliable treatment broadcasting a metaldehyde granular bait (e.g., Deadline M-Ps from AMVAC) much like spreading fertilizer at a minimum rate of 10 lbs/acre. This is an expensive option costing somewhere around \$20/acre, but it is worth it in stand-saving situations. This product generally has to be ordered, so if you need it, act quickly. *Remember:* I am talking about slugs (not snails). Snails have shells and seldom cause injury to our crops even though they are sometimes present in large numbers.



Moth trapping (see appended table). Traps are catching the first emerging southwestern corn borers. The next couple of weeks will indicate how big the overwintering generation is this year. Traps in Jackson and Milan picked up 12 and 4 black cutworm moths, respectively, this past week and 7-20 true armyworms. With our wheat crop all but gone, it is hard to get too worried about true armyworms. Occasionally we see armyworm larvae move into corn or even cotton fields, defoliating or clipping plants, but I've had no reports of this. You may notice we are catching both tobacco budworm and bollworm (or corn earworm) in decent numbers at some locals. What does this mean? It is too soon to say whether this will be a "wormy" year, but with the increase in corn acres across the Midsouth, it is a good bet we will have our share of bollworms in 2007.

Bidrin Reminder: The new Bidrin label only allows a single application prior to first square. This application is intended primarily for thrips control at maximum rate of Bidrin of 3.2 oz/a. No applications of Bidrin are allowed from first square to first bloom. Old stocks of Bidrin, under the old label, can still be used according to the label on the jug.

Mustang Max 0.8EC has just received a supplemental label for use on pastures. This will allow us to use a pyrethroid on armyworms that often occur in bermudagrass and other pasture grasses. This will come in handy later in the year when we get our traditional fall armyworm infestations. The labeled use rate is 2.3-4 oz (depending on the pest), with a 0 day PHI for forage of hay.

Farm Management Update (Chuck Danehower, Area Specialist – Farm Management)

Early projections had the majority of the corn planted in Tennessee to be Roundup Ready varieties. When the early April freeze caused some corn to be replanted, most producers were concerned with getting a decent variety whether it was Roundup Ready or not. This possible change in varieties could cause some problems as glyphosate is applied to not only corn, but cotton and soybeans.

First, if varieties were changed due to replant, make sure everyone connected with the spraying operation is aware if a field or part of a field is not Roundup Ready. That sounds simple, but somewhere in the Mid-South a non Roundup Ready corn is going to be sprayed with glyphosate. At times, farming is hectic so don't take for granted that everyone in the operation knows what should be sprayed where. This also applies to any custom spraying you have done. Having to replant corn was bad enough, but spraying glyphosate on a non Roundup Ready crop would be worse.

Second, what about your neighbors? Are they aware of any variety changes you have made? Are you aware of any changes they made? Even in the quick pace of today, a simple call to update each other could eliminate any drift problems.

Third, make sure your farm liability insurance is updated. In the event of a chemical drift that occurs from your application, you are liable. Most farm liability insurance policies cover accidental chemical drift up to a limit. Check on your policy, what's covered, and what the limit is and whether it needs to be increased. Every year drift occurs either to another row crop, vegetable crop, or home garden so make sure you are covered.

Lastly, if you had to replant, update your records with the correct information. Whether it is a field record book in your truck, or a program on your computer, make the necessary changes **now** if it hasn't been done yet. Memories get fuzzy after several long days. This could help prevent the wrong chemical being applied.

Tennessee Pheromone Moth Trapping Summary - Trapping efforts are funded in large part by the Tennessee Cotton Incorporated State Support Program.

Numbers of Moths per Week (Week 1, ending 5-9-07)

Trap Location	Tobacco Budworm	Corn Earworm (Bollworm)	Beet Armyworm	Southwestern Corn Borer
Hardeman (Bolivar)	0	3	0	---
Fayette (Whiteville)	3	18	0	---
Fayette (Somerville)	5	6	---	0
Shelby (Millington)	4	5	0	---
Tipton (Covington)	27	0	0	---
Tipton (West)	1	0	---	0
Haywood (West)	1	2	0	---
Haywood (Brownsville)	0	0	---	---
Madison (Exp. Stn.)	5	4	*	1
Madison (North)	0	22	---	---
Crockett (Alamo)	1	5	1	---
Crockett (Maury City)	8	1	---	---
Dyer (Bogota)	0	2	0	---
Dyer (Newbern)	1	5	---	0
Lake (Ridgley)	0	31	0	---
Gibson (Kenton)	0	1	---	---
Gibson (Milan Exp Stn.)	4	2	1	1
Carroll (West)	2	1	0	---
Lauderdale (Goldust)	4	34	2	---

An asterisk (*) indicates trap was missing, knocked down or not run.

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