

IPM NEWSLETTER

Update for Field Crops and Their Pests

No. 9

May 23, 2008

Past newsletters and other information can be found at UTCrops.com

Bookmarks: [Weed control](#) [Insect control](#) [Farm bill](#) [Moth traps](#)

Cotton Scout School Friday, May 30th, 8:30 AM - Noon, West TN Research and Education Center, Jackson - An overview of pest management in cotton including plant growth and development, pest identification and injury, sampling methods, and living and preserved insect specimens. Scouting notebooks, sampling supplies and lunch will be provided. There will be a short “go-to-the field” session after lunch for those interested in participating. Pre-registration is not required.

Larry Steckel (Weed Specialist) and Lucas Owen (Graduate Research Assistant)

Wet Weather Has Caused Residual Herbicides to Play Out. Any corn that was planted in late March or early April should be checked for how well the weed control is holding up. Also, any early burndowns that had a residual component should also be evaluated for weed control. In all our trials here at the station most pre applied herbicides have played out. The last couple of dry springs all herbicides that have residual activity provided unusually long weed control. This spring is more of a reality check. In my corn studies pretty much all pre applied herbicides have run out and heavy flush of grasses and weeds are very evident. In addition we are seeing a fair flush of horseweed in many tests (corn, cotton and soybean) where a pre applied has dissipated. My point is do not get blindsided and let a delayed flush of weeds get away from you.

“New Weed.” A number of folks have called about a “new weed” that a dicamba plus glyphosate tank mix has not controlled. Most have described it as common ragweed. I have visited several of these sites and the weed in question is wild carrot (a.k.a. Queen Ann’s Lace). This has been a very common weed in fence rows for years but for what ever reason has been very prevalent in many of our fields in West Tennessee. At the present time I am not sure it is resistant to dicamba + glyphosate. Rather, (I hope) that most of these burndowns that failed to control it went out late when the wild carrot was fixing to flower. Weeds in the flowering stage are typically very hard to control as nutrients and herbicide are being moved to the flowers and not to growing points.



New Herbicides for 2008. There are a couple of new herbicide products out this year. One is a corn product from Bayer called Laudis (tembotrione). Laudis is a bleacher like Callisto and is labeled POST in corn to control small seeded broadleaf weeds. The recommended rate is 3 oz/A. Laudis can be applied to field corn from emergence until V8 growth stage and on sweet corn from emergence until the V7 growth stage. We have only had one test the past two years evaluating this product. Therefore, our knowledge of how it will perform on weeds here in Tennessee is very limited.

Another product that we have conducted much more extensive research here in Tennessee is PowerFlex (pyroxsulam) from Dow. **Please do not mistake this for Roundup PowerMax.** This is a wheat herbicide that has performed well at the 3.5 oz/A rate controlling ryegrass. This product has the same mode of action as Osprey (ALS Inhibitors), and like Osprey ideally should be used in the fall for best control. Recommended adjuvant for use with PowerFlex is either 0.5% v/v NIS or 0.8% COC. This herbicide can be applied to wheat from 3 leaf to jointing stage. The application window to best control ryegrass with PowerFex is 2 lf to 2 tiller stage. The current plant back to soybean is 9 months, so unless the label changes by this summer, fall applications will be all that can be used.

Insect Management (Scott Stewart, IPM Specialist)

Thrips sprays needed on early planted cotton. With the drier weather, thrips populations have increased sharply on early planted cotton. There is not much early planted cotton, but I would expect most cotton planted before May 10 will likely benefit from a 1-2 leaf application of Orthene/acephate, Bidrin or Dicrotophos. The good news -- cotton planted this week should grow off much more rapidly which greatly reduces the potential impact of thrips. However, we still need to be watchful for high populations that may migrate from nearby wheat.

Selected results from a replicated at-planting thrips trial are shown below. These are average thrips numbers at 20 and 27 days after planting, and the cotton was planted April 23rd so you know it went through some hard times. The results reflect what we are seeing in other thrips trials. Namely, immature thrips populations jumped dramatically after 20 DAP, and the seed treatments are out lasting Temik in these early planted experiments. I would also give a little edge to Gaucho Grande over Cruiser. Although Temik generally provides longer residual control than seed treatments, excessive rain since planting has clearly washed away the Temik. We sometimes see that Gaucho has a little edge over Cruiser in wet scenarios because it is less water soluble. This can flop back and forth depending on weather conditions (even in the same planting season). For example, Temik was the best treatment in my trials last season and Cruiser had a slight edge over Gaucho.

Average numbers of thrips per 5 plants in cotton (planted April 23, 2008, WTREC, Jackson).

Treatment	20 DAP (cotyledon - 1 leaf stage)			27 DAP (1-2 leaf stage)		
	Adults	Immatures	Total	Adults*	Immatures*	Total*
Untreated	4.50	1.50	6.0	11.75 a	46.75 a	58.5 a
Temik (5 lb/acre)	3.25	2.25	5.0	5.5 b	16.75 b	22.3 bc
Cruiser (0.34 mg ai/seed)	2.25	0.75	3.0	4.0 b	8.50 c	12.5 cd
Gaucho (0.375 mg ai/seed)	4.25	0.25	4.5	4.5 b	1.75 d	6.3 d

* Numbers not followed by a common letter are significantly different (P < 0.05, LSD).

True armyworms in wheat are generally below treatment levels. There have been a number of calls, and I have now looked a quite a few fields. Despite the “panic”, there are only a few fields that require treatment for armyworms. There are many fields averaging 2-5 larvae per square foot. However, wheat fields are maturing quickly, and *I would not consider treatment unless larval numbers were averaging 8-10 larvae per square foot*, and only then in the latest maturing fields unless the larvae are cutting heads.



In drilled wheat, I sample for true armyworms by shaking two hand lengths of wheat in three adjacent rows and then counting larvae on the ground. This gives you about a one square foot area. Check at least 10 spots per field (= 10 square feet). The larvae vary in color from light green to nearly black. It requires careful inspection of the soil surface to see all larvae. Larvae often lie curled up on the ground once they are dislodged. Be watchful of emerging crops bordering maturing wheat. True armyworm larvae can migrate to adjacent fields and cause

defoliation or cut plants similar to cutworms.

Farm Management (Chuck Danehower, Area Specialist - Farm Management). The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 reached the White House Tuesday, May 20 and was vetoed by President Bush on Wednesday, May 22. Over a 1000 groups and organizations representing farm, conservation, commodity, specialty crop, nutrition, anti-hunger and consumer groups, cooperatives, religious organizations and others called on Congress to override the President’s veto. The veto was over ridden by the House when it was then discovered that the full farm bill had not gone to the President. The 54 page section on Trade had inadvertently been left out. So, Congress will once again vote on the Farm Bill Conference Report after which it will go to the President to most likely be vetoed again. Congress will then have the opportunity to override the veto. Since that is likely, I will touch on some of the highlights of the farm bill this week and in following weeks. However, it may be June before the actual farm bill is made official.

First, food is the leading word in the title with 73.5% of the \$289 billion 5 – year bill going to nutrition programs – mainly food stamps and school lunch programs. Commodities, disaster aid, and crop insurance will receive 16.1% while conservation programs will receive 7%. The new bill includes \$2.5-\$3 billion for specialty crops and adds a livestock title. Some of the main changes I see are in direct payments, payment limits, and a new optional program called Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE).

The direct payment rates will remain the same as in the 2002 bill, but the payment is reduced by cutting the percentage of base acres on which you get a direct payment to 83.3 % for the 2009 – 2011 crop years. The 2008 and 2012 crop year will be at 85%. Advance payments of 22% of the total payment are to be available to producers for 2008 – 2011 crops: no advance direct payment for 2012.

The direct payment limit will remain the same at \$40,000. The Counter Cyclical Payments (CCP) or the new ACRE payment limit will be \$65,000. Those with less than 10 acres will no longer get payments unless they are poor or disadvantaged farmers. The three entity rule is eliminated with direct attribution to an individual. Spouses will be able to qualify for a separate limit. Producers with a three year average Adjusted Gross Income (from income tax forms) of more than \$750,000 in farm income will lose direct payments. Non farmers with a three year Adjusted Gross Income of more than \$500,000 in non-farm income will lose all program eligibility.

In exchange for a 20% reduction in direct payments and a 30% reduction in loan rates, producers will be able to enroll in ACRE – a state level revenue counter cyclical program – beginning in 2009. A guarantee on acres planted or considered planted equal to 90% of the product of a 5-year state average yield factor times the national season average price for the previous 2 years for the commodity. Once a producer chooses ACRE, they are in it for the duration of the farm bill. Once the ACRE guarantee is set, it cannot vary by more than 10% from the previous year’s guarantee. Payment acres are 83.3% of base acres for the 2009 – 2011 crop years and 85% in 2012. ACRE is estimated to have more interest among grain and soybean producers rather than cotton and rice producers. As the details are developed and released, I imagine we will be able to assist producers in making an informed decision regarding this aspect of the farm bill.

In the weeks and months ahead more information and clarification will be coming out on the new farm bill. Look for information here as well as in farm publications and web sites.

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 3, Ending 5-20-08)

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

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

The Agricultural Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex religion, disability or veteran status and is an Equal Opportunity Employer. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS. The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating in furtherance of Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914. Agricultural Extension Service, Charles Goan, Acting Dean.

DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

This publication contains pesticide recommendations that are subject to change at any time. The recommendations in this publication are provided only as a guide. It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. The label takes precedence over the recommendations found in this publication. Use of trade or brand names in this publication is for clarity and information; it does not imply approval of the product to the exclusion of others which may be of similar, suitable composition, nor does it guarantee or warrant the standard of the product. The author(s), The University of Tennessee, The Institute of Agriculture and the University of Tennessee Extension assume no liability resulting from the use of these recommendations.

Scott D. Stewart (editor)
Extension Cotton IPM Specialist

