

IPM NEWSLETTER

Update for Field Crops and Their Pests

No. 24

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

Bookmarks: [Cotton situation](#) [Insect stuff](#) [Farm management](#)

Cotton Situation (Dr. Chris Main, Extension Cotton Specialist)

The Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service reports cotton condition as 26% excellent, 54% good, 19% fair, 1% poor, and 0% very poor. 22% of the crop has open bolls compared to 8% last week, 23% last year and 43% for the five year average.

Harvest Aid Publications:

[Cotton Defoliation Timing](#)

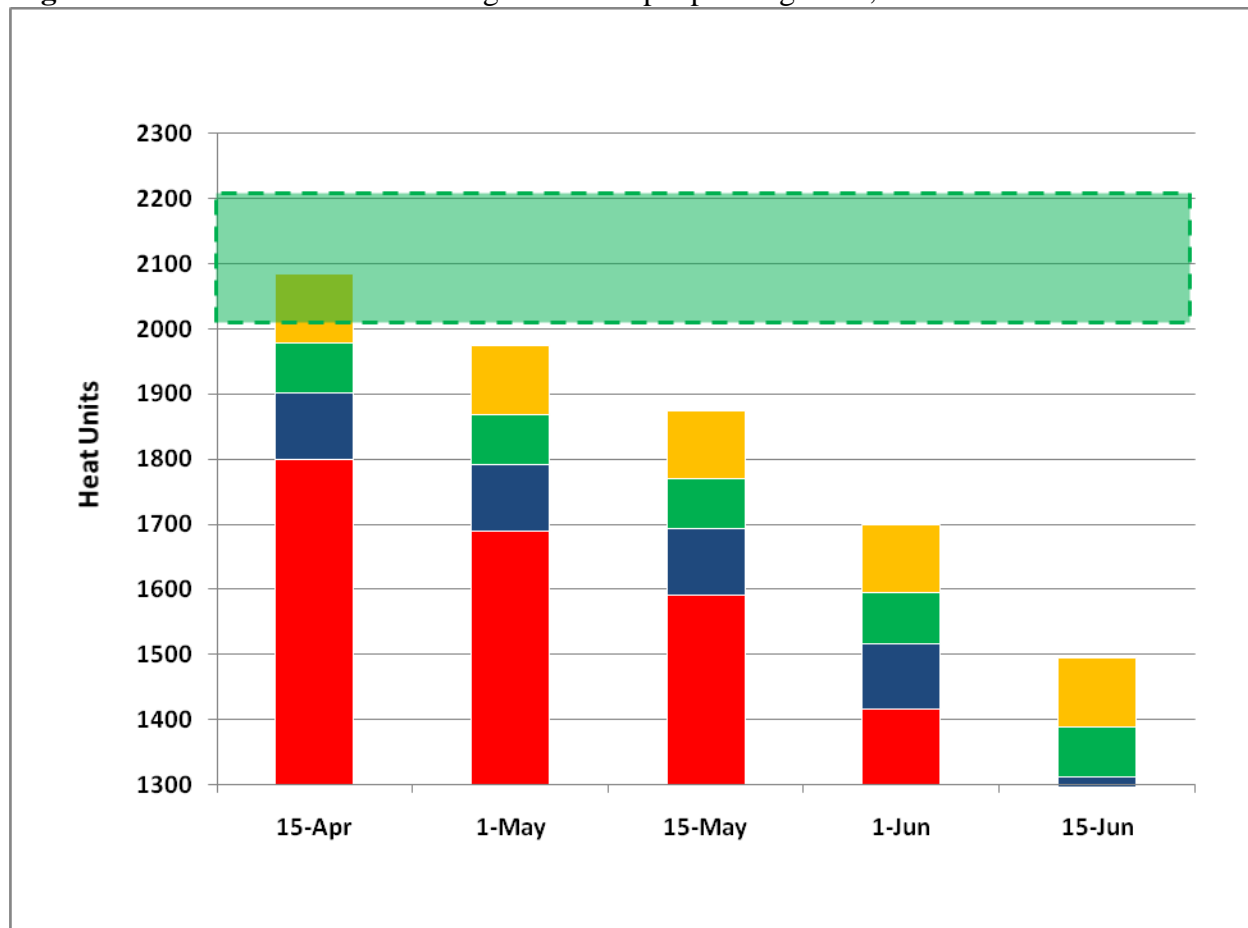
[Cotton Harvest Aids](#)

Defoliation has begun on limited acres across the state. Reports from producers, consultants and retailers indicate that the majority of the April planted crop will be defoliated in the next 5-7 days. Based on treatments we have applied, most hormonal type products (Finish, Dropp, Prep) are working well on the mature April planted crop. The addition of low rates of Def helps speed up leaf drop. In well cutout cotton Finish is working well as a stand-alone product at rates of 24-32 oz/ac. Low rates of Ginstar tank-mixed with Prep is working well also. If using a two pass approach Def at 2 oz/ac + Finish at 10-12 oz/ac or Ginstar at 2 oz/ac + Prep 12-16 oz/ac is working well to open up the crop. Following up with Def or a herbicidal product (Aim, ET, Ginstar) + more Prep will help remove juvenile growth and open bolls left over after the 1st pass. Dropp will continue to work well until high temperatures drop below 80. Dropp at 1.6 oz/ac should be considered if re-growth is a concern (cotton that is not well cutout).

The crop has matured a lot over the past 10 days. I believe defoliation will continue to be simple until temperatures drop off with highs in the 60's and lows in the high 40's. We will begin to place some defoliation demonstrations out in different counties beginning over the next two weeks. We will try to put out one per week to track how products are working as temperatures cool off and the later planted crop matures. Locations will be posted in future newsletters.

Figure 1 below tracks milestones in heat unit accumulation. The green box represents the target heat unit accumulation for this year's crop to mature. Red segment represents accumulation up to 8/20, blue bar segments represents accumulation from 8/21-8/27, green bar segments represents 8/28-9/3, orange bar segments represents accumulation 9/4-9/10.

Figure 1. Heat unit accumulation target for multiple planting dates, 2009.



Insect Considerations (Scott Stewart, IPM Specialist)

Soybean. Remember that your soybean crop needs to be protected from insect pests until nearing R7. This means we have a lot of acres that will be susceptible throughout September. As I said last week, stink bugs and soybean loopers are more likely problems in late maturing soybeans. I am seeing more cabbage and soybean loopers in recent days.

There have been reports of corn earworms (bollworms) in late soybean fields. Several fields were well above the treatment threshold of 9 larvae per 25 sweeps. Reminder: pay particular attention to the latest fields and especially if the canopy is relatively open. Corn earworms feed on pods, so look for pod feeding damage if you are catching corn earworms in the sweep net. Consider treatment if most plants show evidence of pod feeding and larvae are still present at near threshold levels. Don't be confused by larval color. As you can see in the picture below, corn earworms come in a lot of different colors. However, the larvae will have 4 pair of prolegs and a light colored head capsule. They are not particularly hairy but larvae will be sparsely covered by short, bristly hairs.



Variation in the color of corn earworm

Soybean aphids are being sprayed in several areas of Middle Tennessee. I've seen infestations or had reports from Bedford, Cannon and Coffee counties. I suspect the problem is more widespread and includes some fields north to the Kentucky border. Populations in West Tennessee are currently low.

Look closely at late maturing fields, and repeating myself from last week, my best guess recommendation is to spray any aphid infestations where soybeans are not yet at R5 and populations exceed 25 aphids per leaf. Aphids should be easily found on the undersides of leaves at this level, and honeydew will be accumulating on some leaves in the field. Insecticides specifically listing aphids on their label include Brigade, Hero, Lorsban, Prolex, Karate/Warrior, Mustang Max. I would expect all to provide good control.



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

The September 30 deadline is fast approaching for sign up for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). The CSP website - http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/new_csp/ - states that this is a voluntary conservation program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by:

- Undertaking additional conservation activities; and
- Improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities.

CSP offers participants two possible types of payments:

1. Annual payment for installing and adopting additional activities, and improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities
2. Supplemental payment for the adoption of resource-conserving crop rotations

For more information on CSP, visit your local NRCS office.

Reminder – the deadline for applying for 2010 wheat crop insurance is also September 30. See your local crop insurance for details.

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