

PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS

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Cotton

Cotton maturity ranges from mid-bloom to well past cutout (<5 NAWF). Pest insects found in cotton fields include Verde Plant Bugs (*Creontiades signatus*) and Brown Stink Bugs. Cotton fields are susceptible to these boll feeding pests until 450 heat units after cutout, or 5 NAWF.

The best method I have found to scout for these insects is cutting bolls and inspecting for internal feeding. While the Verde Plant Bugs can be found in beat sheet or beat bucket samples, the stink bugs are more elusive and tend to be more difficult to find. Thus, we sample 50 one-inch bolls (~10 days old) per field and examine the internal boll wall for evidence of feeding.

We are currently finding internal feeding above the economic threshold of 20% in a few fields. A research project we have to evaluate the economic threshold had 37% evidence of feeding but some other fields we are scouting had as few as 2%.

The spots on the outside of the boll are not a very good indicator of internal feeding, however, by looking at the bolls with external spots first, you may be able to shorten the time required for this sampling method (Table 1).

Table 1. Cotton bolls samples evaluated for external and internal feeding. (Calhoun County, 2012).

	Total Bolls	
	Total	with internal feeding
6/22/12	320	60 (19%)
6/28/12	320	104 (33%)
Total	640	164 (26%)

	Bolls with external spots	
	Total	Bolls with internal feeding
6/22/12	214	58 (27%)
6/28/12	270	101 (37%)
Total	484	159 (33%)

	Bolls without external spots	
	Total	Bolls with internal feeding
6/22/12	106	2 (2%)
6/28/12	50	3 (6%)
Total	156	5 (3%)



Verde Plant Bug nymph
(*Creontiades signatus*)



Soybeans

I have reports of thrips being found up the coast in soybean fields but have yet to find them in the few soybean fields of Victoria and Calhoun Counties. Economic loss can occur if the thrips causes premature defoliation to the soybean field. Treatment should be considered when a field averages more than 10 thrips per leaflet. Trials I conducted in 2009 and 2011 found Acephate was somewhat effective at control but had little residual control. The combined effects of a pyrethroid and a neonicotinoid insecticide in the products Endigo and Leverage provided good control and sufficient residual to prohibit re-infestation for up to 20 days after application.



Stink bug egg mass on soybean leaf with thrips and