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MID-COAST IPM NEWS

Calhoun Refugio Victoria

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Cotton . . .

Cotton fields are ranging from in the bag to 4-5 true leaves. I have not yet seen any insect pressure in cotton fields but keep an eye out for thrips and aphids. Fields planted with seed treated with either Gaucho Grande or Cruiser may still have thrips or aphids, but their numbers are generally much lower than untreated fields (Table 1). For the insecticide to control the insects, the insects must feed on the plant. A cotton field should be treated if thrips populations exceed one thrips per true leaf.

Table 1. *Number of thrips per 10 plants for seed treatments and untreated control. (Calhoun County, 2005)*

			4/18/2005	4/27/2005	5/3/2005
			<1 TL	2 TL	4 TL
			14 DAP	23 DAP	31 DAP
Untreated			10.5 a	35 a	46 a
Gaucho Grande	12.8	FL OZ/CWT	2 b	18.5 a	14.8 b
Cruiser	0.3	MG A/SEED	1.5 b	16 a	16.8 b
LSD (P=.10)			2.71	17.86	16.66
Treatment Prob(F)			0.0011	0.1603	0.0186

Corn . . .

I am finding various caterpillars in the non-Bt corn. Most of these are fall armyworms and corn earworms and are not at damaging levels. You will notice the "shot hole" appearance of leaves that are fed upon. I have not yet found sugarcane borers in corn fields.

Soybeans

Two key issues in soybeans will be stink bugs and soybean rust. Stink bugs should be monitored in soybeans starting at bloom. While I am investigating

the current stink bug economic threshold of 36 bugs / 100 sweeps, I have no reason to lower it yet. I have discussed stink bug thresholds in soybeans with experts across the country and found that 36 bugs per 100 sweeps is generally accepted. One exception is in Louisiana where they have lowered the threshold to 24 per 100 sweeps in fields containing greater numbers of the **Red Banded Stink Bug** (*Piezodorus guildinii*).

Asian Soybean Rust was found in Hidalgo County in late February. The field was destroyed and Rust has not been found in the area since. It is important to learn how to identify soybean rust in order to prevent yield losses and unnecessary fungicide application.

In order to identify soybean rust I was told to get a 20x hand lens. After seeing a sample of "dead" rust and looking at it, my first suggestion is to get a better lens. I was not satisfied with my ability to identify the "volcano" like structures with my 20x lens and I am getting a 60-100x lens for field use. These can be found locally for less than $20.

One troubling issue involves crop insurance. While pathologists have suggested that fields with yield potential below 25 bushels per acre may not be economically treated for soybean rust, the RMA has issued the following statement on their website:
http://www2.rma.usda.gov/news/2006/04/soybeanrust.html

> "The Failure to purchase and apply adequate control measures due to economic reasons is not an insurable cause of loss."

Keep this in mind if soybean rust is positively detected in the area.

You can find information on Asian soybean rust from USDA's website at:
http://www.usda.gov/soybeanrust and http://www.sbrusa.net.

2006 Applied Research Topics

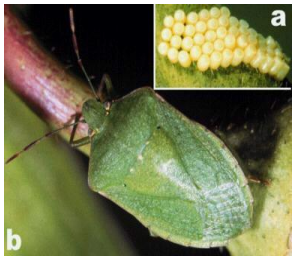
Cotton Projects:

- Bollguard II economic comparison
- Two stacked gene variety trials
- Seed treatment evaluations.

Corn projects:

- Sugarcane borer IPM
- Insecticidal control of sugarcane borers.

Soybean projects:



- Stink bug economic thresholds
- Timing of stink bug damage
- Stink bug scouting techniques
- Stink bug species complex
- Stink bug insecticidal control
- Soybean Rust Monitoring.

Insecticide trials will occur as needed.

Please contact me if there are any other topics that I should investigate.

~Stephen

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