

GAINES COUNTY IPM NEWSLETTER

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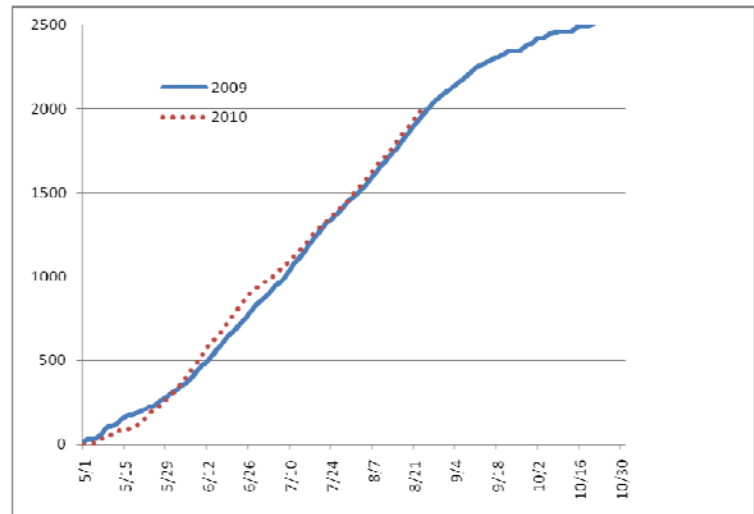
August 27, 2010

General Situation

Cotton and peanut fields are looking good for the most part. Peanut fields have formed pods that are maturing rapidly. We are starting to see cracked bolls in some cotton fields.

At this point in the season, there is a very low likelihood that any blooms past this point will develop into a mature boll. It takes approximately 850 heat units for a white flower to develop into an open boll. In 2009, from August 26 to October 31 we accumulated 523 heat units.

Accumulated Heat Units (H.U.) from May 1 to August 25, 2009 and 2010



Spider Mites

Spider mites are being found in non-Bt (conventional) and Bt (transgenic) cotton fields at varying levels. We have not treated any fields for spider mites. For the most part, the thrips are helping to suppress the spider mite populations. Right now thrips are not considered a pest, they are actually a beneficial because they feed on the spider mite eggs.

Spider mites infest the undersides of leaves, where they remove the sap from the plant and cause the leaves to discolor. They may also infest bracts of squares and bolls, causing the bracts to desiccate and squares or small bolls to shed. Severe infestations can defoliate the cotton plant. Mites may be moved by high winds or equipment from nearby crops which already have heavy infestations.

We found the heaviest population of spider mites in a field that was treated for bollworms, fall armyworms, and beet armyworms last week. Therefore, there were very few live insects (including beneficials and thrips) left in the field. This opened the door for the spider mites and they have successfully colonized in the field and are spreading. Spider mites usually tend to start on the outer edges of the fields and spread inward. In this particular field, we found lighter populations on the edge of the field and heavier populations as we walked further into the field.

Spider mites can be an economically damaging pest in cotton and peanuts.

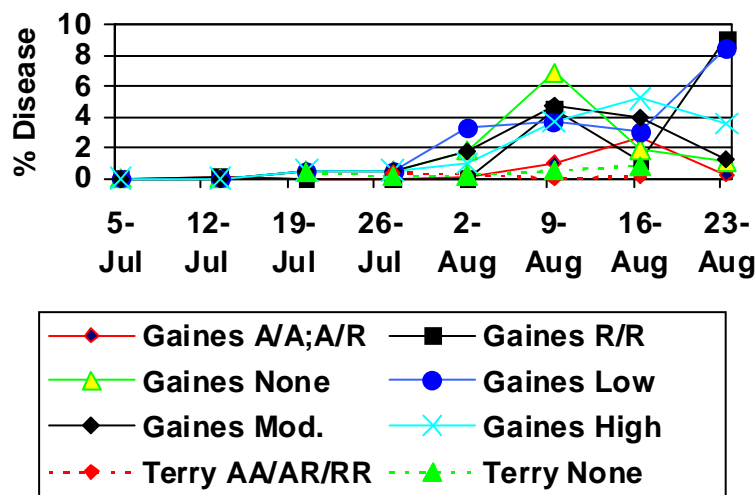
Therefore, growers who have treated their cotton or peanut fields for worms or other pests should keep a close eye on the field. Since spider mites live on the underside of the leaves you have to actually get out into the field and look at the undersides of the leaves to determine if you have a developing spider mite population. Treat when you have at least 50 percent of your plants infested. Treatments should be applied **before** the damage is evident from the roadside. Otherwise it is too late and the treatment will only be a revenge treatment because you may not be able to reduce the spider mite populations below economically damaging levels.

Peanut Diseases

Pod rot is still present in peanut fields at various levels. We are also picking up some early leaf spot. The hot dry weather is helping to suppress most of these diseases. But cool wet weather could change this scenario very quickly. Scouting fields will also help you to determine if another fungicide application is justified once your initial fungicide applications have played out.

Below are the results from the on-going pod rot peanut research trials that are being conducted in Gaines County and in Terry County. We are evaluating eight different chemical treatments. Treatments in this test include calendar based timings and pod rot level treatments. The calendar based treatments are Abound followed by Abound, Abound followed by Ridomil plus Provost, and Ridomil plus Provost followed by Ridomil plus Provost and they are applied at approximately 75 and 110 days after planting. The pod rot level treatments are applied when the pod rot levels reach 2% (low threshold), 4% (medium threshold), and 6% (high threshold).

Currently, all of the treatments are below 2% disease pressure with the exception of the Low Threshold Treatment, the High Threshold Treatment, and the Ridomil followed by Ridomil Treatment.

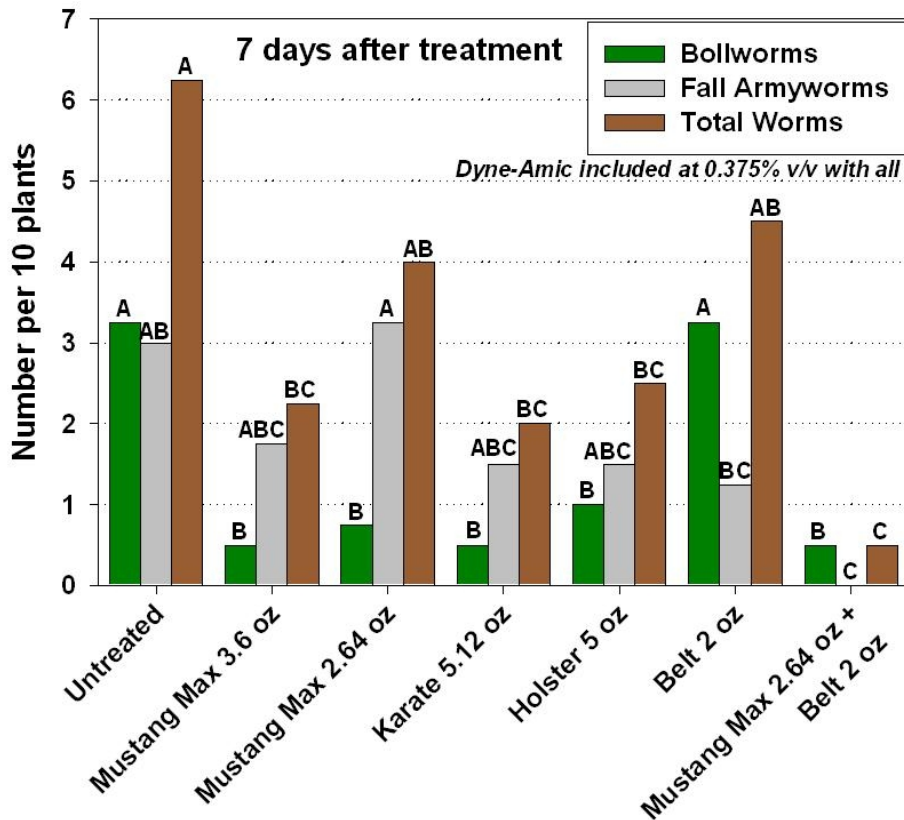


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"Worms" in Cotton

We only found one field in southwestern Gaines County that had small worms (less than 1/2 inch). Hopefully this indicates that we are at the end of this worm cycle. A majority of the Bollworm, Fall Armyworm, and Beet armyworm that we found this week were 1 inch or longer, which indicates that the worms are fixing to cycle out and the bollworm moths are laying less eggs. My bollworm trap catches have also declined this week.

One Tuesday August 17 Dr. David Kerns group (including Brant Baugh, Extension Agent-IPM for Lubbock County and Dustin Patman, Extension Agent-IPM for Crosby/Floyd Counties) and I put out a bollworm/fall armyworm insecticide trial in Gaines County. We did the post treatment counts on August 24. Below are the results.



- **The combination of Mustang Max at 2.64 oz & Belt at 2 oz gave us the best control on Bollworms and Fall Armyworms.**
- Mustang Max at 3.6 oz, Mustang Max at 2.64 oz, Karate at 5.12 oz, Holster at 5 oz, and the combination of Mustang Max & Belt had significantly fewer **bollworms** than the untreated plots.
- Belt at 2 oz and the combination of Mustang Max & Belt had significantly fewer **fall armyworms** than the untreated plots.
- Mustang Max at 3.6 oz, Karate at 5.12 oz, Holster at 5 oz and the combination of Mustang Max & Belt had significantly fewer **total worms** than the untreated plots.

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