

**GAINES COUNTY IPM NEWSLETTER**

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Volume IV, No. 9

August 5, 2011

**General Situation**

The drought continues and there is no relief in sight. Several more cotton fields reached cutout (cutout = 5 NAWF) this week. Nodes Above White Flower (NAWF) ranges from 1 to 7, with several fields at 3-6 NAWF. Peanuts are continuing to bloom, set pegs, and form pods. We have seen an increase in pegging and the formation of small pods this week. We are also starting to see a limb crop developing, instead of just a root crop (pegs close to the rot).

We have accumulated approximately 20% more heat units this year as compared to last year for the time period between May 1 to August 3.

**Table 1. Accumulated Heat Unit (H.U.) from May 1 to August 3 for 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011.**

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>Accumulated H.U.</b>	1594	1522	1548	1942



**Figure 1. Beneficial Insect - Spider mite destroyer**

We are still picking up light populations of bollworms, fall armyworms, and beet armyworms in our peanut fields and non-Bt cotton fields. But all populations are well below economic thresholds. Beneficial insects, like spider mite destroyers (*Figure 1*) and six spotted thrips (*Figure 2*), are starting to clean up some of the spider mite populations. Both of these beneficial insects can be found quickly scurrying around the leaf as they search for spider mites & eggs to devour.



**Figure 2. Beneficial Insect - An immature six spotted thrips (top) and adult six spotted thrips (bottom) eating mite eggs. (photo courtesy of Dr. David Kerns)**

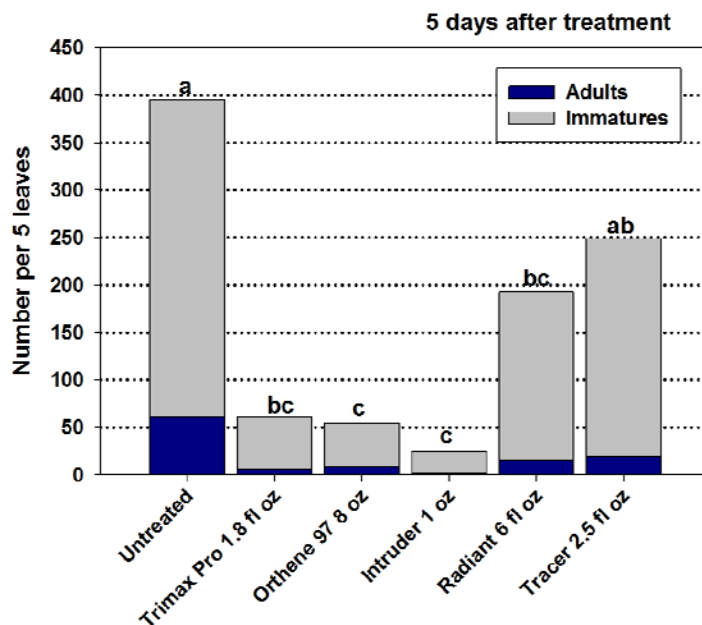
*Kurtomathrips morrilli* (*Figure 3*) have been identified in 2 more fields in Gaines County. One field is approximately 8 miles west of Seminole and the other field is in far northwestern Gaines County. They have also been reported in Lubbock County and far northwestern Yoakum County. Therefore, this pest is widely distributed and could be found in any field. The highest populations tend to be in areas of the field that have a skippy stand, drought stressed, and/or suffering due to other factors.



**Figure 3. Pest - An immature Kurtomathrips (top) and an adult Kurtomathrips (bottom) (photo courtesy of Dr. David Kerns)**

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Below are the results from our *Kurtomathrips* insecticide test at 5 days after treatment. All of the products, except for Tracer, have significantly decreased the number of thrips as compared to the untreated plots. Intruder (Acetamiprid), Orthene (Acephate), and Trimax Pro (Imidacloprid) had the greatest impact on the *Kurtomathrips*. The untreated plots still have approximately 390 thrips per five leaves. This is a very destructive pest. Once a plant is infested with the thrips, the thrips will keep feeding and reproducing on that same plant, even though the plant begins to appear like it has no more substance for the thrips to feed on and it is completely destroyed. It is truly amazing the number of thrips that we are finding on dead looking plants. Please contact me if you think that one of your fields is infested with the *Kurtomathrips*.



### Pod Rot Management

Pod rot is starting to show up in some peanut fields. We are picking up pod rot caused by *Rhizoctonia* and *Pythium*. Pods infected with *Pythium* usually have greasy dark brown-black lesions and pods may have a wet loose white fungus mat. Whereas, pods infected with *Rhizoctonia* have a drier dull brown lesion. Pod rot is one of those diseases that is hard to scout for because there are no symptoms above ground. Additionally, pod rot is not always evenly distributed throughout the field. One section of the field may have more pod rot than the rest of the field. Therefore fields need to be scouted thoroughly. Differentiation between *Pythium* and *Rhizoctonia* pod rot is important, since this will dictate which fungicide you need to apply. Some of the products that are listed for *Rhizoctonia* management are Abound, Artisan, and Convoy. Folicur and Provost are labeled for *Rhizoctonia* but their labels specify that applications are made in a 4-block regime. Products labeled for *Pythium* management are Ridomil and Abound (suppression only). One of the most important factors in the management of pod rot is to get the product down to the pegging zone. This can be done by chemigation, or increasing the carrier volume, increasing droplet size, and/or irrigating right after the fungicide is applied. Products like Ridomil are quickly absorbed into the leaf, and every effort should be made to get the product down into the pegging zone.

### Irrigation

Producers are reporting that they are seeing an increase in pegging in fields where the pivot system has been sped up and they are putting out 1/2 to 3/4 inch every three days. Additionally, the fuller mature canopies are likely helping to retain more humidity, which in turn helps set blooms.

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During blooming, cotton prefers frequent, low-volume applications of water rather than large, less frequent amounts. This strategy minimizes the degree of water stress between rain or irrigation and thus increase fruit retention. Drag hoses are a more efficient way of irrigating cotton. Whereas, peanuts need the overhead sprinkler irrigation to increase the humidity in the peanut canopy (humidity helps with peanut flower pollination).

### Heat Units (H.U.)

We had several fields reach cutout during the last couple of weeks. There are several management factors that are based on heat unit (H.U.) accumulation after cutout. At 350 H.U. after cutout the field should be safe from lygus. At 450 H.U. it should be safe from bollworm egg lay & stink bugs. At 500 H.U. terminate irrigation (this year could be different since we have no subsoil moisture and irrigation termination will need to be made on a field by field basis). And it takes 850 H.U. to produce a normal boll. Use the table below to estimate the number of H.U. your field has accumulated since cutout. For example, if your field reached cutout on July 22, then it has accumulated approximately 385 H.U.

**Table 2. Accumulated Heat Units (H.U.) since July 15, July 22, and July 29, 2011**

Date	July 15	July 22	July 29
Accumulated H.U.	556	385	200

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