

GAINES COUNTY IPM NEWSLETTER

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Advise from a Wise Old Farmer

“A bumble bee is considerably faster than an open cab tractor”

“Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance”

In times like this it is always good to smile, laugh, and be thankful for the good things in life.

General Situation

We have not received any significant rainfall since July of last year. A majority of the peanuts have been planted and have emerged. Growers are still busy planting cotton. Cotton stages range from just planted to 1 true leaf stage. As plants are emerging growers need to be out scouting their fields for thrips and other early season insect pests.

Damaged Cotton Seedlings



Figure 1. Wireworm

We are seeing damaged cotton seedlings in some fields. Birds and wireworms (*See Figure 1*) have been the main culprits. Control options are very limited for both of these pests after the cotton has been planted. However, differentiating between the two is important if you are considering a replant. Wireworm control has to be applied at planting.

Figure 2 shows some examples of the type of damage you may see associated with wireworm feeding on cotyledon stage cotton. Most of the time they will feed on several areas of the stem and they may not chew the stem completely in half. Dr. David Kerns, Extension Entomologist, has suggested the following “If you are facing replanting due to wireworms, you should consider using a seed treatment containing imidacloprid (Guacho 600, Aeris, generics), thiamethoxam (Cruiser, Avicta Complete) or clothiadan (Poncho/Votivo), or an in-furrow insecticide such as Thimet. Temik is not thought to be highly effective on wireworms.”



Figure 2. Wireworm feeding damage on stems

Bird damage has also been observed in several fields. The birds are hanging out on the center pivot irrigation system and following the system around the circle. The birds are clipping the cotton seedlings as they are starting to crack through the soil (*See Figure 3*). Most of the time they slice completely through the stem and toss the cotyledon leaves to the side (*See Figures 4 & 5*). The birds usually dig holes in the soil as they are pecking around for the emerging seedlings.



Figure 3. Emergin cotton seedling that was partially clipped by a bird

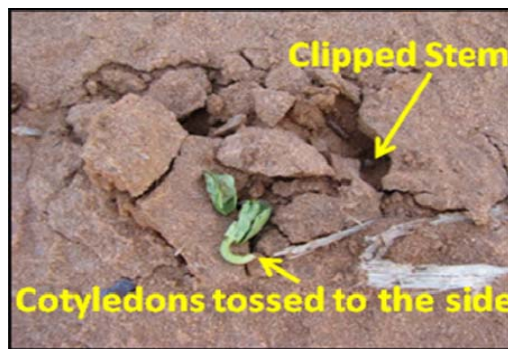


Figure 4. Clipped cotton stem and cotyledon leaves that were tossed to the side



Figure 5. Birds disturbed the soil as the clipped off the cotyledon leaves and tossed them aside

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