
<http://msucare.com/newsletters/pests/cis/index.html>

Crop Insect Situation Newsletter: Remember if you know someone who would like to receive this newsletter, they can have their name added to the mailing list by emailing sparker@entomology.msstate.edu or by sending their name and address to: Crop Insect Situation Newsletter, Box 9775, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

Crop Situation:

For the week ending May 2nd cotton was 54% planted and 25% emerged. Soybeans were 78% planted and 57% emerged. 97% of wheat was heading. Rice was 75% planted and 57% emerged. Sorghum was 75% planted and 50% emerged. State average air temperature was 65 degrees (2 degrees below normal). Rainfall was 2.48" (1.21" above normal) and soil temperature averaged 71 degrees.

Slugs:

There continue to be calls about slugs in no-till cotton. I have visited several no-till fields where cotton is just emerging with high numbers of slugs. It is hard to get an exact count because during the day they are under debris or in the seed furrow below the soil surface. Best estimate in some fields is 3-4 per square foot. The most visible injury is feeding on the cotyledon leaves. While this type of damage may be upsetting to look at, I think these plants will pull out of this injury with the warm weather forecasted. The damage that I am concerned about is when the slugs get in the seed furrow and feed on the stems. When the plant tries to push the cotyledons out of the ground it can snap at the feeding site looking like cutworm injury. I also think with warmer weather coming we will have the conditions to outgrow this problem soon. There are still calls coming in where growers feel that if nothing at all is done they will be in a replant situation. At this time, I feel that insecticides are not an option and in most cases the best option will simply be to do nothing. However, one grower surface applied 100# of Ammonium Nitrate + 100# of Ammonium Sulfate at night when the slugs were active on Wednesday. The day before this application the consultant could find one to two slugs per hill of cotton, after this treatment only 1 slug could be found per 7 – 10 hills of cotton. The grower was in the field the night of the application and said that the ground was covered with slugs. He went back the night after application and could still find a few slugs but the numbers were greatly reduced. Based on what the grower saw he would definitely do this again if he had slug problems. With that said, I am still not ready to make this a recommendation, but if you feel that you absolutely have to do something and you do not have all of your nitrogen out on your cotton, this application could be counted toward your total nitrogen and the only cost would be the difference in price between the Ammonium Sulfate and the nitrogen source you were going to use. Once again, I am only talking about slugs and not snails. In every field I have been in both were present. Snails will

have shells and generally do not feed on the plant. Slugs will not have shells. Snails can be present on the plant in very high numbers but not cause damage. I have posted some pictures of slugs on the MSU cares website. To view these pictures go to <http://www.msucare.com>, then click on **Insects/Plant Diseases/Pesticides**, then click on **cotton insects**. Then scroll down to “other information” and click on **pictures of slugs in cotton**.

Thrips:

There have been a few sprays for thrips, but mainly where thrips materials were not applied at planting or seed was not treated. Below are the results of a foliar test conducted by Dr. Jack Reed in 1999 where he evaluated several foliar sprays for thrips.

Mean percent control of thrips on seedling cotton.			
Compound	Rate a.i/ acre	3 days after trt.	10 days after trt.
Acephate	0.2	69.7	81.0
Imidacloprid	0.02	75.8	38.1
Dircrotophos	0.2	75.8	52.4
Dimethoate	0.2	75.8	76.2
Zeta-cypermethrin	0.015	54.5	47.6
# thrips/10 plants in untreated check		66.0	10.5

Soybeans:

Insect pressure in soybeans has been light across the state. Bean leaf beetles can be found in low numbers but I have not seen or found numbers that would require treatment. Grasshoppers have been treated in only a very few isolated spots. One ounce of Dimilin was used on grasshopper nymphs and results were good.

The Soybean Insect Control Guide has been updated for 2004. The guide will be going to press soon and hard copies will be available in a couple of months. For the interim, I have posted a temporary .pdf file on the MSU cares website. To access the guide go to <http://www.msucare.com>, then click on **Insects/Plant Diseases/Pesticides**, then click on **Soybean Insects**. There are a lot of changes and updates so be sure and check it out.

Wheat:

Most wheat is in the soft dough stage now and stink bug numbers have dropped considerably. Brown stink bug, rice stink bug, and green stink bugs are present in low numbers in most fields, but are not causing any concerns.

2004 Cotton Insect Scouting School Dates:

2004 Cotton Insect Scouting School Schedule

County	City	Site Contact Information	Date	Time
Mississippi State University	MSU	Clay Lyle Entomology Building (662 325-2085) Angus Catchot	Tue. May 25	9:00 – 12:00 a.m.
Lee	Verona	NE MS R&E Center (662 841-9000) Clint Young	Thur. May 27	9:00 – 12:00 a.m.
Washington	Stoneville	B.F. Smith Auditorium Delta Research and Extension Center (662 332-0524) Guy Wilson	Tue. June 1	9:00 – 12:00 a.m.
Concordia Parish, LA	Ferriday LA	Concordia Parish Comm. Center 26356 Hwy. 15 (318 336-5315) Glen Daniels	Fri. June 4	9:00 – 12:00 a.m.

* Scout Schools are free of charge and open to anyone.

Entomology From the Past:

YEAR 1869. First Annual Reports on the Noxious, Beneficial and other Insects, of the State of Missouri. By Charles V. Riley, State Entomologist

REMEDIES AGAINST THE CHINCH BUG

When chinch bugs are likely to march, as they often do, after the fashion of armyworms, from an infected to an uninfected field, Mr. H. J. Everest, of Stoughton, Dane county, Wisconsin recommends the following plan, which is stated to have been tried by several persons and found to be perfectly effectual, and which is substantially the same as that referred to on page 23:

Take common fence-boards, six inches or less wide, and run them around the piece, set edgewise, and so that the bugs cannot get under them or between the joints, and then spread either pine or coal tar on the upper edge, and they will not cross it. The tar needs renewing till the edge gets saturated, so that it will keep wet and not dry in anymore, and either kind of tar is effectual. Then dig holes close to the boards, about like a post-hole, once in four or five rods, and run a strip of tar from the top of the board to the bottom on the outside opposite the hole, and they will leave the board, and in trying to get around the tarred stripe will slide into the hole, where they will be obliged to remain till they can be buried at leisure, and new holes opened for more victims. It is seldom one has to fence more than one side of a field, but wherever the fence is, it is a sure stop.—*Proc. New York Farmers' Club.*

Finally, when the chinch bugs are already in the field which it is proposed to rescue from their clothes, Mr. Michael Hopps, of Lyonsville, Cook county, Illinois, says that the rate of six or seven bushels to the acre; and that the effect was that the bugs immediately left his field, and his crop was saved, while the wheat of his neighbors was nearly ruined by them. He further states that "a neighbor had a field of wheat adjoining his (Mr. Hopps's) cornfield, in which the bugs worked badly. Thinking that, as soon as the wheat was cut, they would emigrate to his corn, he dropped a handful of the gas-lime upon each hill of corn, in the same manner as plaster is often dropped upon corn in the East. The consequence was that the bugs did not attack the corn in the least."—(*Prairie Farmer.*)

Angus Catchot
Extension Cotton & Soybean Entomologist

Area Specialists: Dr. Gordon Andrews
Dr. Don Parker
Dr. Mike Williams