

Crop Insect Situation

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

Crop Situation:

For the week ending June 12th, 2005 corn was 27% silked. Cotton was 19% squaring. Rice was 100% emerged. Sorghum was 100% emerged. Soybeans were 99% planted and 97% emerged, and 34% blooming. Wheat was 98% mature and 58% harvested. State average air temperature was 78 degrees (1 above normal). Average weekly rainfall was 1.83 inches (0.79 inches above normal).

Cotton: Plant bug numbers have really been increasing rapidly throughout the delta and sprays have been going out in squaring cotton. Several have reported that numbers seem to be higher in cotton this year than this same time last year. I swept some alternate host flowers in the hills yesterday (6/14) and literally caught more plant bugs than could be counted in 25 sweeps. Expect to see a constant influx of adults. Aphids are beginning to build in some places in the delta and the hills in the last seven days. Neonic (Centric, Trimax, Intruder) insecticides have been the product of choice for most where plant bugs and aphids both are present saving the "old standards" (Orthene, Bidrin, Vydate) insecticides for after bloom. Spider mites are still lingering in some areas of the state requiring treatment. Where cotton is growing off well mite numbers are being diluted out with new growth but these fields are being monitored closely. At the end of last week I walked the first field in the hill region of the state with spider mites. Treatment was required on half of the field.

Mississippi Boll Weevil Eradication Program – Farrell Boyd

Mississippi BWEPP trapping activities for the week of June 2 – 8, 2005 (cycle 8). A total of 240 boll weevils were trapped in cycle 8, which is a 61.9 percent reduction from the previous cycle, and a 65.7 percent reduction from the same period in 2003. Of the total weevils captured in the state, 98.8 percent were captured in Region 3. The percentage of fields that captured zero boll weevils ranged from 97.6 in Region 3 South to 100.0 in Regions 1A, 2, and 4 with an average of 98.9 percent for cycle 8. Statewide an average of 97.3 percent of the fields have had zero boll weevils captured this trapping season. Regions 2 and 4 continue to be weevil free for the season. 97 fields consisting of 9,743 acres have met treatment criteria for Malathion treatments through June 8th. These fields have received an average of 1.1 applications.

Soybeans: Soybean insect numbers still remain low throughout the delta with three cornered alfalfa hopper numbers and bean leaf beetles picking up in the hill region of the state. I have had reports of some acres in the north delta and south delta being treated for potato leafhoppers. Potato leafhoppers are very sensitive to the pubescence of the leaf. Numbers and damage from

this pest are much worse in smooth leaf varieties of soybeans. There has never been a solid threshold established in the mid south for PLH's in soybeans but I have had several questions in recent days. The most visible sign of damage is leaf curling, which can turn into yellow necrotic areas around the leaf margins when numbers are high, referred to as "hopper burn".



Early Symptoms of PLH Injury

PLH Nymph

PLH Adult*

**Photograph of Adult Potato Leaf Hopper taken by Dr. Marlin E. Rice, Iowa State University Department of Entomology*

Most of the threshold work on potato leafhoppers has been conducted in the mid-west. From work in other regions damage is worse when PLH's infest plants in the vegetative stages of crop development or very early reproductive stages. Thresholds are approximately 5 PLH's **PER PLANT** in the vegetative stages with reproductive stages being able to tolerate higher numbers. We are currently trying to correlate numbers based on a sweep net count. Immatures do not seem to come off the plants in a sweep net very efficiently comparing to visual samples. In the few fields that actually required treatment, low rates of pyrethroids are working well. In MS I would not recommend treating unless there are numerous PLH's present and plants are beginning to show symptomology and not growing off well. Consequently, we have met these criteria in some fields. **Below is the weekly soybean insect report for around the state.**

Numbers of Soybean Insect Pest per 100 Sweeps taken on June 13 and 14

County	Soybean Growth Stage	Bean Leaf Beetle	Cucumber Beetle	Three cornered alfalfa hopper	Potato Leaf Hopper	Green stink bug	Brown Stink Bug	Looper	Green Clover Worm
Noxubee	V7	55	1	9	40	0	0	0	3
Lowndes	V8	86	0	9	24	0	0	0	1
Oktibbeha	V5	59	1	5	1	0	0	0	1
Clay	V5	10	0	53	1	0	0	0	2
Monroe	V3	6	0	46	22	0	0	0	2
Chickasaw	R1	4	0	18	33	0	0	0	5
Montgomery	V5	1	1	12	2	0	0	0	0
Leflore	V7	0	0	4	10	0	0	0	13
Tallahatchie	V7	2	1	2	55	0	0	0	3
Coahoma	V5	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Bolivar	V7	9	0	0	28	0	1	0	1
Washington	R2	3	2	15	20	0	0	0	4
Sharkey	R2	7	0	2	40	0	1	1	1
Issaquena	V8	2	1	10	112	0	0	0	8
Warren	V6	0	0	3	13	1	2	0	4
Yazoo	R1	1	0	10	28	0	0	0	6
Holmes	V6	10	0	7	10	0	0	0	3
*Concordia Parish, LA	R5	6	0	0	-	7		1	0

Date 7 Jun 2005 - Pheromone trap captures

Weevils

County	Total			Average per trap			total	average
	Bollworm	Budworm	BAW	Bollworm	Budworm	BAW	weevils	per trap
Coahoma	12	0	0	6	0	0		
Tunica	11	2	2	5.5	1	1	0	0
Bolivar	20	0	0	6.67	0	0	0	0
Washington	2	0	0	2	0	0		
Madison	52	0	0	52	0	0	0	0
Yazoo	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.03
Humphreys	0	0	14	0	0	7		
Leflore	12	17	4	6	8.5	2		
Carroll	0	10	3	0	10	3	0	0
Grenada	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Itawamba	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Prentiss	0	2	1	0	2	1	0	0
Lee	16	0	2	16	0	2	0	0
Chickasaw	46	2	4	46	2	4		
Clay	18	2	0	18	2	0		
Noxubee	23	9	2	23	9	2	0	0
Lowndes	24	1	0	12	0.5	0	0	0
Monroe	4	3	0	1.33	1	0		
totals	240	48	32	194.5	36	22	1	
averages	13.3	2.7	1.8	10.8	2.0	1.2		
totals	Bollworm	Budworm	BAW					
North Delta	45	2	2					
South Delta	64	27	21					
NE Hills	131	19	9					
Average								
North Delta	5.63	0.25	0.25				0	
South Delta	7.11	3.00	2.33				0.016	
NE Hills	13.10	1.9	0.9				0	
State AVG	10.8	2.0	1.2				0.005	

Northeast MS- Dr. Mike Williams

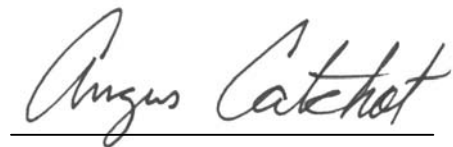
NE Mississippi cotton crop is very variable depending greatly on the rainfall amounts received in the last two weeks. There are areas of the state, which have not received adequate amounts of rainfall to activate chemical and get the crop growing vigorously. Conversely there are a few areas which have too much water standing in fields for good growth. The rains came at a great time and most of the crop is either squaring or will be in the next few days.

Thrips season is almost behind us. Trap captures in most areas indicate that moths are active and as squaring begins we can expect to find some eggs in the young cotton. Tobacco budworm numbers are still very low, though we are seeing a few continue to appear in traps in the NE counties. We did capture one boll weevil in traps along the hill delta line this past week. This parallels the BWE reports. Most of the weevils caught in 2005 have been along the dividing line between the hills and the delta. This area provides ideal overwintering sites for weevils and will probably be the last bastion of weevils to be breached.

*Thanks to Ralph Bagwell, Extension Entomologist in LA for providing insect counts from Concordia Parish, LA across the river from Natchez.

**Pictures will not show up clearly in the hard copy mail out. To be able to view color photos you must sign up to receive the email version of the newsletter.

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