

Mississippi Crop Situation

August 23, 2007

Editor: Angus Catchot

Number 20

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

Crop Situation: (For the week ending August 19, 2007)

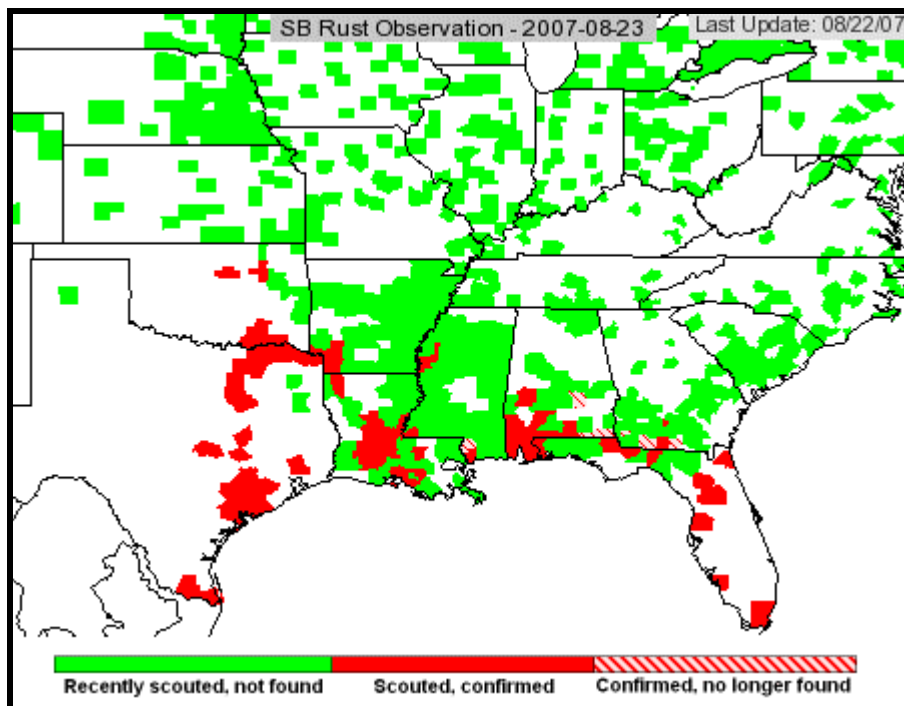
Cotton was 30% open bolls. Corn was 87% mature, and 34% harvested. Soybeans were 99% setting pods, and 54% turning color, and 8% harvested. Rice is 60% mature and 1% harvested. Sorghum was 95% coloring and 65% mature, and 26% harvested. Peanuts are 100% pegging. State average air temperature was 87 degrees (7 degrees above normal). Weekly rainfall was 0.03 inches (0.7 inches below normal).

Soybean Rust Update

Billy Moore, Ben Spinks, Alan Henn, and Tom Allen

SOYBEAN RUST:

As of August 23, 2007, no additional rust has been found in the state of Mississippi. Wilkinson, Pearl River, Washington, Hancock, and Sunflower Counties are the only counties that have soybean rust at this time. Of the five positive finds, one is present on kudzu and four are on soybeans. The sentinel plots in Washington and Pearl River Counties where soybean rust had been found have been destroyed. We are continuing to monitor this disease statewide in sentinel plots, kudzu, and producer fields. If you have suspicions of rust in your field, contact your local Rust team for positive confirmation.



For any questions or concerns regarding soybean rust, please consult with your local extension agent, extension plant pathologist or call the Soybean Rust Hotline at 1-866-641-1847. The Hotline will be updated at least twice a week with new and current information regarding soybean rust.

Insects

Cotton: **Angus Catchot:** This will likely be the last cotton insect report of the year. I do plan however to send out a couple more newsletters on an as needed basis since we have so many new contributors that will continue to have pertinent information for some time to come.

Most consultants I have talked to or finishing up insect sprays on a lot of acres with just some late planted fields left that have a little ways to go. We had an 80% egg lay in Starkville this week on some extremely late planted cotton. The moths we are flushing are all bollworm and you will notice from the trap counts that the bollworm catches in some parts of the hills went way up this week. There are still fields in the hills that need to be scouted for worms, so be looking. Also, I had a couple reports of worms in high numbers out of the delta on late planted cotton, however, the bulk of the delta crop is well beyond the point of treating worms and I expect to see defoliation on some fields next week. Something we often forget about is the bollworm/budworm threshold goes to 8% infested plants after cutout from 4%.

Soybean: **Angus Catchot:** Still getting lots of soybean calls. Up until this point we have treated stink bug on a fair amount of acres but as a whole populations have been somewhat lower than in previous year. Last week was definitely the turning point, now R6 – early R7 beans are getting some really high numbers in places.

Terminating Stink bug Sprays- Lots and lots of calls about terminating stink bug sprays in soybeans. **Our threshold is 9/25 sweeps through R7.** This is the threshold but is not necessarily how we are handling every field. We know that stink bugs can damage beans at R7 but the question is “Will a normal threshold level at this stage justify treating”, Remember, thresholds are guidelines but not always black and white, nothing replaces good common sense. Dr. Fred Musser here in Starkville has been trying to address this issue for the last 3 years. To date his research is showing that although stink bugs can be damaging to soybeans when caged in large cages for 2 weeks starting at R7, the numbers it requires to justify treating is at least a 2 - 3X threshold and it is more about quality than bushels per acre. Remember we are talking about when soybeans are beginning to turn color. In the heat we have been experiencing we are seeing fields go from turning color to 70-80% leaf drop in less than 10 days. So going by the book, if we are at threshold we are justified to treat, however, in most fields that we are “just at” threshold and beans are turning color we are not treating. A couple points to consider: What is the make up nymphs vs. adults. We know that many adults will be leaving the field for greener beans when leaves start to drop and we also know that small nymphs (1/4” or less) or not very damaging compared to larger nymphs, so if your counts show many small nymphs I would not even count them. That does not mean that they will go away but it will certainly get you another check before you have to make a decision. On the other side, as beans dry down we are beginning to see the big movements of stink bugs now into the later beans. Don’t be surprised if counts that were low one week jump to a 2-3X threshold next week. Another watch out is which species is present. In the delta this year we are dealing mostly with brown stink bugs and most fields up until this point have been running about 70-90% browns. Since we are dealing with mostly browns we need to switch to organophosphate insecticides. Pyrethroids have generally given us 50-60% control on browns.

Getting lots of calls on wheat beans. Some of the irrigated wheat beans seem to have decent potential but will be a magnet for every pest in the book from this point forward. I am still getting calls about wheat beans that are flowering with high levels of bollworms stripping

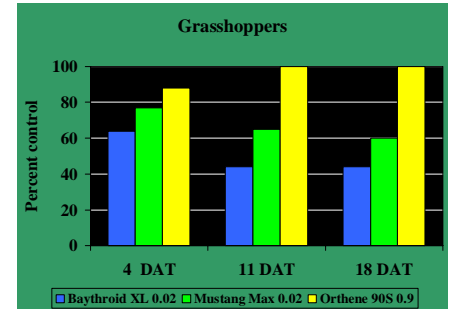
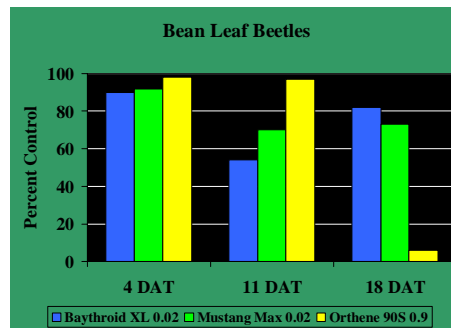
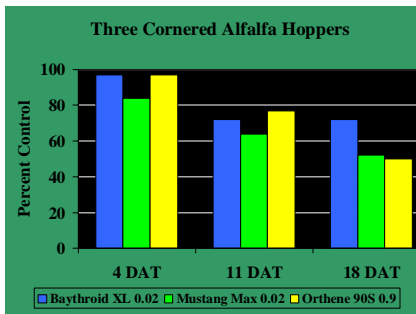
flowers and small pods. Don't be surprised if we have several more insecticide applications on wheat beans to make a crop.

Also yesterday we picked up Redbanded stink bug in Starkville. Counts were very low, averaging about 1-2 per 100 sweeps but they were present. Outside of the Natchez-Vicksburg area of the state this is the first RBSB that I have come across in MS.

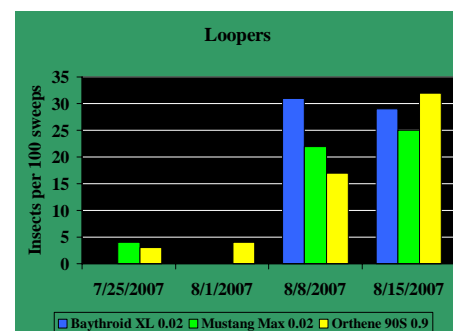
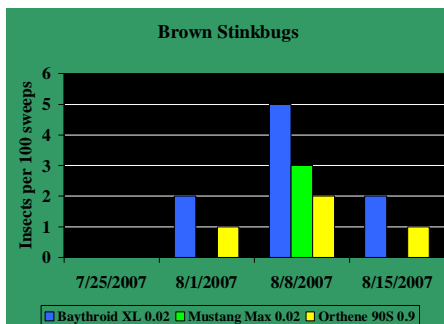
Crop Update – Delta

Dr. Gordon Andrews

The charts below are from a demonstration where different insecticides were applied by air in 6 gallons of water with 6 oz of Quadris fungicide on July 28th 2007. The group 4.7 beans were had just reached R5 stage of growth on July 25th 2007. The insecticides were: 1. Baythroid XL at 0.02 lb AI/acre, 2. Mustang Max at 0.02 lb AI/acre, and Orthene at 0.9 lb AI/acre. Pretreatment samples were taken on July 25th 2007 and the sample sites were marked so that all subsequent samples could be taken from the same site. Insect numbers per 100 sweeps were 90, 87, and 74 three cornered alfalfa hoppers (3CAH); 90, 64, and 66 bean leaf beetles (BLB); and 25, 65, and 36 grasshoppers (GH) in the Baythroid, Mustang Max, and Orthene treated plots on July 25th 2007.



The duration of an application to group 4 soybeans in the earlier stages of R5 is one of the things that are demonstrated here. Below are charts showing how looper and brown stink-bug populations increased after the insecticide applications. Green stinkbugs were very low before and after the applications.



On August 15th 2007 the beans in these plots were approaching R7 stage of growth and it seems at this point that no further insecticide treatment will be needed. These plots are located in a large acreage of beans that were all treated on the July 28th 2007. The treatments were applied to reduce the 3CAH, BLB, and GH numbers and also reduce stinkbugs and nymphs so a second treatment would not be needed. These treatment would not be expected to last as long on later beans, or beans in smaller fields where migration on insects into the field would become an issue.

Crop Market Update

August 22, 2007: Dr. Steve Martin & Dr. John Anderson

Cotton: Last Thursday could be referred to as bloody Thursday. All the financial markets as well as commodity markets fell dramatically. The cotton market went down the limit in pit trading. The recently introduced electronic trading had problems as traders were stopped in direct trades when the market went limit down, but the computer mechanisms were not in place to stop spread trading at levels lower than the market. Thus, traders were left with only one leg of the spread. Most of these problems have been hopefully resolved. We found out last week how vulnerable the cotton and other commodity markets are to the “outside” or other markets. Stocks markets were down at least partially on concerns from the housing and mortgage sell offs and liquidations. This sent out concerns about inflation, recession, stagflation and all the other negative terms, interesting that it occurred when cotton market fundamentals were as strong as they had been in several months. USDA’s last supply and demand estimates were on the surface positive for price improvement and for the last two weeks the crop condition index has slipped which should support prices. However, the amount of speculative and hedge fund money in the cotton and commodity markets can not be underestimated. The market is attempting to correct itself to get back above the \$0.60 mark. Again, December 2008 suffered less than the nearer term markets and should continue to slowly strengthen.

Last week, commodity futures declined across the board as weakness in the stock market spilled over into the commodities market. On Thursday, corn futures racked up double-digit losses while soybeans traded limit down for much of the day. Markets (both stock and commodity) responded favorably to the Fed’s early-Friday announcement of a cut in the discount rate. Most commodities regained the bulk of Thursday’s losses on Friday (soybeans did not); however, the incident serves as a graphic reminder of the intimate connection between our crop markets and the overall economy.

Corn futures started this week higher. During last week’s sell off, December corn futures held at the well-established \$3.20 resistance level. This seems to have inspired a fair number of technical traders to go long early this week, providing some upward momentum for the moment. Fundamental support is a bit harder to find. Crop condition ratings actually improved a couple of percent this week due to Midwest rains. The market had expected basically steady condition ratings. On the other hand, corn futures have received spillover support from wheat. Nearby CBOT wheat futures gained over 16 cents on Tuesday, largely on favorable export news this week (notably, a large sale to Egypt). Despite high prices, wheat sales remain brisk, reflecting tight global stocks.

Soybean futures were pressured last Thursday not just by the stock market sell-off but also by improving weather conditions in parts of the Midwest. For that reason, on Friday, the response in the soybean pits to the Fed’s discount rate cut was pretty anemic. Soybean futures have moved some higher in the first part of this week. Monday’s crop condition ratings were a bit worse than a lot of people expected, dropping from 56% Good-to-Excellent last week to 54% Good-to-Excellent this week. There also seems to be some concern developing that the Midwest rains may be too much of a good thing for soybeans, as flooding is becoming an issue in some regions.

Trap Lines

Pheromone Traps Captures – Don Cook, Chris Daves, and Fred Musser. Week of August 22, 2007.

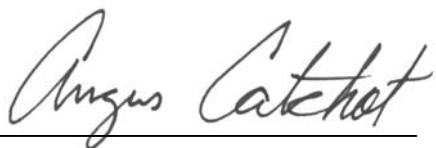
County	This week last year	Bollworm	This week last year	Budworm	Beet Armyworm
	Bollworm		Budworm		
Bolivar	56	48	23	17	25
Coahoma	40	37	14	8	26
Humphreys	70	48	40	1	46
Leflore	40	41	23	1	9
Tunica	78	57	4	32	-
Chickasaw	3	173	2	22	7
Grenada	22	70	0	0	9
Hinds	-	56	-	1	8
Itawamba	2	100	0	18	-
Lee	2	118	3	34	6
Lowndes	19	347	1	5	-
Madison	0	100	0	0	6
Noxubee	8	104	0	17	6
Prentiss	3	46	2	5	0
Union	-	38	-	1	-

Ryan Jackson USDA Trap line

August 21, 2007

County	This Week last Year	Bollworm	This Week last Year	Budworm	BAW
	Bollworm		Budworm		
Washington	60	17	22	2	-
Sharkey	123	39	18	1	57
Humphreys	44	19	2	2	-
Yazoo	75	3	-	8	-
Holmes	37	40	1	1	-
Leflore	12	76	16	8	23
Tallahatchie	54	46	1	11	-
Coahoma	66	55	105	23	123
Bolivar	21	27	2	6	-
Sunflower	29	60	2	29	114

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Extension Cotton & Soybean Entomologist

