

# Mississippi Crop Situation

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## This Weeks Planting Report

### National Agriculture Statistics Services (Mississippi) Crop Progress for Week Ending 7/13/08

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5- Year Average
Corn Silked	99	95	100	99
Corn Dough	73	66	86	78
Corn Dent	24	4	51	38
Cotton Squaring	93	76	97	93
Cotton Setting Bolls	38	22	48	53
Peanuts Pegging	60	30	55	--
Rice Headed	10	0	18	20
Sorghum Heading	75	45	84	83
Sorghum Coloring	10	0	7	14
Soybeans Blooming	92	77	96	91
Soybeans Setting Pods	62	40	63	71
Sweet Potatoes Planted	96	94	99	92
Winter Wheat Harvested	100	100	100	100

## Soybean Insects

### Angus Catchot

Beginning to get several reports of bollworms (podworms) showing up in beans. Most of the reports have been half thresholds but seem to be not difficult to find. Bollworms favor soybeans with skippy stands like in wheat beans or wide row plantings that do not canopy as well. These type scenarios are more attractive for oviposition of female moths compared to drilled beans that are canopied well. Bollworms can be particularly troublesome since they are often deep in the canopy around fruiting forms feeding on blooms and pods making them more difficult to catch in sweep nets. When sweeping beans for bollworms try and sweep deeper into the canopy. The threshold for bollworms in soybeans is 15/25 sweeps and worms greater than 1/2



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inch in size. Also, supplement sweep nets with visual inspections of blooms and pods for feeding damage. Drop cloth threshold is 4 or more larvae per 1 ft of row half inch long are greater.

### Dr. Gordon Andrews

The following tables contain data collected from three tests which are being conducted in the Mississippi delta this growing season. The objectives of these tests are to look at insect populations and soybean yields produced by two soybean insect management strategies on large (40-50 acre) fields. Strategy/treatment 1 requires no insecticide treatment until published thresholds are sampled from the fields except for three cornered alfalfa hoppers which will be treated at a lower threshold of 40 adults or 2 nymphs per 100 sweeps. Strategy/treatment 2 requires an application of insecticide at the R-3 stage of development and the use of published insect treatment thresholds for the remainder of the season. Test 1 is near Lake Washington in Washington county, test 2 is near Cruger in Holmes county, and test 3 is near Gunnison in Bolivar county.

#### Test 1

Date	Growth Stage	GSB <sup>3</sup>		BSB <sup>4</sup>		3CAHA <sup>5</sup>		3CAHI <sup>6</sup>		LFB <sup>7</sup>		GH <sup>8</sup>		LFC <sup>9</sup>	
		T1 <sup>1</sup>	T2 <sup>2</sup>	T1	T2	T1	T2	T1	T2	T1	T2	T1	T2	T1	T2
6/10/2008	R-2	0	7	1	1	0	5	0	0	4	2	0	3	4	4
6/17/2008	R-3	0	4	2	2	1	2	0	0	8	8	1	4	3	3
Insecticide application on 6/17/2008 of 1pound AI Orthene/acre to treatment 2 (after sample)															
6/24/2008	R-4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	17	6	3	0	2	0
7/1/2008	R-4	0	0	0	0	9	5	0	0	20	19	3	0	1	0
7/8/2008	R-5	0	0	1	0	25	17	0	0	16	6	5	2	3	0
7/15/2008	R-5	3	1	2	1	19	13	0	0	18	4	0	0	5	2

#### Test 2

Date	Growth Stage	GSB <sup>3</sup>		BSB <sup>4</sup>		3CAHA <sup>5</sup>		3CAHI <sup>6</sup>		LFB <sup>7</sup>		GH <sup>8</sup>		LFC <sup>9</sup>	
		T1 <sup>1</sup>	T2 <sup>2</sup>	T1	T2	T1	T2	T1	T2	T1	T2	T1	T2	T1	T2
6/18/2008	R-3	0	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	38	25	0	0	0	0
6/25/2008	R-3	0	1	0	2	3	4	0	0	48	52	0	0	0	1
Insecticide application on 6/25/2008 of 0.025 pounds AI Mustang Maxx/acre to treatment 2 (after sample)															
7/1/2008	R-3	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	15	8	3	0	2	0
7/9/2008	R-4	0	0	1	0	30	14	0	0	30	20	1	0	5	1
7/15/2008	R-4	0	0	0	2	46	20	5	0	35	91	7	0	7	5
Insecticide application on 7/17/2008 of 0.025 pounds AI Mustang Maxx/acre to treatment 1															

#### Test 3

Date	Growth Stage	GSB <sup>3</sup>		BSB <sup>4</sup>		3CAHA <sup>5</sup>		3CAHI <sup>6</sup>		LFB <sup>7</sup>		GH <sup>8</sup>		LFC <sup>9</sup>	
		T1 <sup>1</sup>	T2 <sup>2</sup>	T1	T2	T1	T2	T1	T2	T1	T2	T1	T2	T1	T2
6/26/2008	R-3	0	4	1	1	3	4	0	0	8	23	2	0	0	1
Insecticide application on 6/26/2008 of 0.02 pounds AI Baythroid XL/acre to treatment 2 (after sample)															
7/2/2008	R-4	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	38	8	2	0	2	0
7/10/2008	R-5	0	0	1	0	20	3	1	0	47	27	2	0	7	0
7/16/2008	R-5	2	0	1	0	39	2	2	0	101	38	1	0	3	0
Insecticide application on 7/16/2008 of 0.02 pounds AI Baythroid XL/acre to treatment 1 (after sample)															

<sup>1</sup>T1=treatment 1, <sup>2</sup>T2=treatment 2, <sup>3</sup>GSB=Green stinkbugs/100 sweeps,<sup>4</sup>BSB=Brown stinkbugs/100 sweeps  
<sup>5</sup>3CAHA=Three cornered alfalfa hopper adults/100 sweeps, <sup>6</sup>3CAHI= Three cornered alfalfa hopper immatures/100 sweeps, <sup>7</sup>LFB=Leaf feeding beetles/100 sweeps (includes spotted and banded cucumber beetles, bean leaf beetles, and grape colaspis), <sup>8</sup>GH=Grasshoppers/100 sweeps , <sup>9</sup>LFC=Leaf feeding caterpillars/100 sweeps (includes green clover worms, alfalfa caterpillar, loopers, and salt marsh caterpillars)

Treatment 1 has reached the threshold of 40 adult three cornered alfalfa hoppers in test 2 and 2 immature three cornered alfalfa hoppers in test 3. Insecticides have been applied and the results will be reflected in next week's data.

## Corn Agronomics

**Dr. Erick Larson**

**Corn Irrigation Update** – Corn development is lagging behind recent seasons this year, as most “early-planted” fields in the south Delta are still a week or two away from “black layer” and corn farther north will be later yet. This is somewhat expected considering the crop was planted later and tasseled about a week or two later than normal. Therefore, continue checking milk-line development for determining proper irrigation termination timing, rather than relying on calendar dates. Early irrigation termination or late-season water deficit will reduce yield by reducing grain fill, cause premature leaf death (“burning up”), and likely increase stalk lodging before harvest.

The milk-line is the borderline between the bright, clear yellow color of the hard seed coat outside the hard starch layer, compared to the milky, dull yellow color of the soft seed coat adjacent the dough layer. To observe the milk line, break a corn ear in half and observe the cross-section of the top half of the ear (the flat side of kernels opposite the embryo). If this color difference is not plainly visible, you can find it by pressing your fingernail into the soft, doughy seed, starting at the kernel base and repeating this procedure progressively toward the tip, until you feel the hard starch layer.

**Figure 1.** Photo showing a cross-section of an ear of corn with the milk-line advanced half-way down the kernels. This corn is about 10 days from physiological maturity and needs moisture to fill seed weight during this period.



It generally takes about 20 days for the milk-line to progress from the kernel tip, down to the base, when grain filling is complete and the kernels are physiologically mature. You can use this guideline to estimate the approximate maturity date. For instance, if the milk-line is half-way down the kernels, it will take about another 10 days to reach physiological maturity. Thus, if it does not rain, the field needs supplemental irrigation water to supply moisture for 10 more days. Since crop water use rapidly declines as corn reaches maturity, furrow irrigation intervals may be extended, and pivot irrigation volume limited to adjust for reduced corn water use during late growth stages. If adjustments are not implemented, over-irrigation can also occur during this time, stunting the crop and reducing productivity. The degree of irrigation scaling back will likely vary considerably depending on soil characteristics, so monitor soil-water availability at various depths in individual fields to make appropriate management decisions. Irrigation at or following physiological maturity (“black layer”) has no value for corn production.

## Northeast MS Update

### **Dr. Don Cook**

Many cotton fields have moderate to large infestations of aphids. In some of these fields aphid numbers have decreased dramatically. In most cases these were in areas that have received rain. In others, aphid numbers have not decreased that much.

Three-cornered alfalfa hopper and bean leaf beetle numbers in soybeans are low to moderate in most fields. However, in some field alfalfa hopper numbers are near or above threshold and girdled plant are not hard to find. Many soybean fields have some stink bugs even fields of determinate beans that are not blooming yet.

## Market Briefs

### **Dr. John Anderson and Dr. Steve Martin**

**Corn:** This week, it began to look like the weather market in corn futures was really over after all. Another week of outstanding weather last week continued to contribute to improving crop condition ratings. Monday’s Crop Progress report showed the corn crop at 64% Good-to-Excellent, an improvement of about 2% over the prior week.

While the favorable Midwest weather and improving crop condition ratings have removed some of the support in the market provided by truly awful conditions in June, probably a bigger factor in the corn market this week was the influence of outside markets. Crude oil futures have dropped precipitously this week, and while that is certainly good news for the economy, it has had a generally negative effect on other commodity prices, including corn. Falling oil prices this week pushed corn futures lower than they probably otherwise would have gone in correcting from June highs. On the combination of improving weather and falling energy futures, the September corn contract on the Chicago Board of Trade dropped about \$0.50 in the first four days of this week and is back to about the same level it was when the big June rally began. On Wednesday, futures bumped about a dime higher as traders tried to make something out of long range forecasts calling for hot, dry conditions. But at this date and with more than adequate soil moisture already in place, the market will take some real convincing that drought is going to be a problem. For now, crop conditions and outside markets will be the drivers of this market, with outside markets likely having the biggest influence.

**Soybeans:** Soybean futures fell sharply on Thursday, with most contracts losing about 50 cents on the day. Supply/demand fundamentals remain generally supportive in the market, but a lack

of fresh positive news makes it difficult to sustain prices at near-record levels. This week's news has been mostly on the bearish side, with somewhat disappointing export and domestic crush numbers, prospects for very large soybean plantings in Argentina being discussed this week, and sharply lower prices in related commodity markets. Moving ahead, the soybean market will be dominated by weather news. Hot, mostly dry Mid-South weather is getting some attention now. With competing views on the weather and its effects working on the market over the next week or two, prices could remain quite volatile.

## Disease

**Dr. Tom Allen**

**Downy mildew of soybean :** Over the past two growing seasons I have received numerous calls regarding downy mildew. Downy mildew is the most common foliar disease of soybean. Even though the environmental conditions haven't been conducive for foliar disease to develop we are observing quite a bit of downy mildew on irrigated beans with high yield potential. More than likely this is a function of the humidity produced during irrigation.

Initial disease symptoms appear as either small (pencil tip sized) or rather large (sometimes a third of the leaf) pale green to yellow lesions on the upper leaf surface. As lesions age they will begin to turn grayish brown, eventually turning dark brown with a characteristic yellow halo surrounding them. The smaller lesions can coalesce, and produce larger spots. On the corresponding underside of the leaf, the fungus will develop tufts of white, gray, to purplish fungal mycelia. These fungal tufts develop in response to wet, humid weather or humidity produced from irrigation. One of the most important things to remember about downy mildew is there are instances when it might require a greater period of time to produce the characteristic fungal tufts on the undersides of the leaves. This will make diagnosis of the disease difficult since yellow lesions on the upper leaf surface will occur without the presence of fungal. There can also be differences within a field and between fields with regards to how leaf symptoms express themselves. I have included several photos to attempt to show a range of symptoms of downy mildew. The first photo shows leaves that were all collected from the same field from plants that were not a great distance apart from one another. Downy mildew infections can also occur on the pods without symptom expression.

Chemical control measures are not necessary. Some soybean varieties do have resistance to downy mildew. One thing that does limit the spread and severity of the disease is older leaves are more resistant to the fungus. So as plants mature, and leaves age, less and less infection will occur.

Rarely do downy mildew infections reach levels where defoliation occurs. The disease is spread by seed as well as carried over on infected plant material that resides in fields from the following year.



## 2008 Budworm/Bollworm Trap Captures

### Pheromone Traps Captures – Don Cook, Chris Daves, and Fred Musser. Week of July 14, 2008.

County	This week last year Bollworm	Bollworm	This week last year Budworm	Budworm	Beet Armyworm
Calhoun	--	8	--	2	60
Chickasaw	27	9	2	8	19
Grenada	65	19	1	1	--
Hinds	6	-	1	0	13
Lafayette	--	77	--	0	3
Lee	29	20	8	3	10
Lowndes	66	4	2	11	0
Madison	15	32	2	2	19
Monroe	--	2	--	1	0
Noxubee	12	5	3	3	0
Oktibbeha	--	2	--	4	0
Pontotoc	--	18	--	4	2
Prentiss	10	14	2	3	15
Rankin	--	16	--	12	4
Scott	--	5	--	12	0
Union	0	5	0	1	3
Warren	--	21	--	4	43
Webster	--	50	--	0	2

### Ryan Jackson USDA Trap line

July 14, 2008

County	This Week last Year Bollworm	Bollworm	This Week last Year Budworm	Budworm
Washington	25	8	0	1
Sharkey	48	42	0	0
Humphreys	13	28	1	0
Yazoo	41	12	1	2
Holmes	67	7	0	2
Leflore	49	21	0	0
Tallahatchie	19	15	0	4
Coahoma	83	144	5	1
Bolivar	62	67	2	0
Sunflower	70	29	6	0

## 2008 Southwestern Corn Borer

### Southwestern Corn Borer - Chris Daves –July 16, 2008

County	Avg/Trap	County	Avg/Trap
Adams	0	Monroe	3
Attala	-	Montgomery	1
Calhoun	10	Noxubee	8
Carroll	30	Panola	46
Chickasaw	0	Pearl River	-
Clay	1	Perry	-
Coahoma	48	Pontotoc	17
Covington	1	Quitman	43
DeSoto	21	Rankin	1
Forrest	-	Scott	0
George	-	Sharkey	1
Grenada	30	Simpson	0
Hinds	0	Sunflower	3
Holmes	-	Tate	56
Humphreys	9	Tunica	7
Issaquena	1	Union	13
Leake	-	Warren	1
Lee	5	Washington	38
Leflore	158	Yalobusha	-
Lowndes	103	Yazoo	0
Madison	2		

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### Extension Row Crop Contact List

#### State Specialist Contact Information

Darrin Dodds	Cotton Specialist	662 418-1024 cell	<a href="mailto:dmd76@pss.msstate.edu">dmd76@pss.msstate.edu</a>
Erick Larson	Grain Crop Specialist	662 418-7802 cell	<a href="mailto:elarson@pss.msstate.edu">elarson@pss.msstate.edu</a>
Trey Koger	Soybean Specialist	662 207-1604 cell	<a href="mailto:tkoger@drec.msstate.edu">tkoger@drec.msstate.edu</a>
Chris Daves	Corn Entomology Specialist	662 418-1492 cell	<a href="mailto:cdaves@ext.msstate.edu">cdaves@ext.msstate.edu</a>
Angus Catchot	Entomology Specialist	662 418-8163 cell	<a href="mailto:acatchot@ext.msstate.edu">acatchot@ext.msstate.edu</a>
Nathan Buehring	Rice Specialist	662 822-7359 cell	<a href="mailto:nathanb@ext.msstate.edu">nathanb@ext.msstate.edu</a>
Mike Howell	Peanut Specialist	601 795-1425 cell	<a href="mailto:mshowell@ext.msstate.edu">mshowell@ext.msstate.edu</a>
Larry Oldham	Soils Specialist	662 312-9250 cell	<a href="mailto:loldham@pss.msstate.edu">loldham@pss.msstate.edu</a>
Steve Martin	Extension Economist-Cotton & Rice	662 588-3080 cell	<a href="mailto:smartin@ext.msstate.edu">smartin@ext.msstate.edu</a>
John Anderson	Extension Economist-Corn, Soybean, Wheat	662 324-3672 cell	<a href="mailto:Anderson@agecon.msstate.edu">Anderson@agecon.msstate.edu</a>

#### Area Specialist Contact Information

Don Cook	Northeast MS – Entomology	662 255-1899 cell	<a href="mailto:dcook@ext.msstate.edu">dcook@ext.msstate.edu</a>
Tom Allen	Delta – Plant Pathology	662 402-9995 cell	<a href="mailto:tallen@ext.msstate.edu">tallen@ext.msstate.edu</a>
Gordon Andrews	Delta - Entomology	662 820-8808 cell	<a href="mailto:gordona@ext.msstate.edu">gordona@ext.msstate.edu</a>
Chris Daves	South MS - Entomology	662 418-1492 cell	<a href="mailto:cdaves@ext.msstate.edu">cdaves@ext.msstate.edu</a>
Dan Poston	Delta - Soybean	662 820-0893 cell	<a href="mailto:dposton@drec.msstate.edu">dposton@drec.msstate.edu</a>

#### Area Agronomist Contact Information

Art Smith	North Delta	901 239-3283 cell	<a href="mailto:arts@ext.msstate.edu">arts@ext.msstate.edu</a>
Jerry Singleton	Central South Delta	662 299-7092 cell	<a href="mailto:jerrys@ext.msstate.edu">jerrys@ext.msstate.edu</a>
Ernie Flint	Central MS	662 582-1211 cell	<a href="mailto:ernestf@ext.msstate.edu">ernestf@ext.msstate.edu</a>
Bill Maily	South West	601 540-5582 cell	<a href="mailto:billm@ext.msstate.edu">billm@ext.msstate.edu</a>
Jay Phelps	North	662 488-5500 cell	<a href="mailto:jayp@ext.mssate.edu">jayp@ext.mssate.edu</a>
Bill Burdine	North Central	662 456-0517 cell	<a href="mailto:bburdine@ext.msstate.edu">bburdine@ext.msstate.edu</a>
Charlie Stokes	North East	662 386-7307 cell	<a href="mailto:charlies@ext.msstate.edu">charlies@ext.msstate.edu</a>
Dennis Reginelli	East Central	662 418-4480 cell	<a href="mailto:dennisr@ext.msstate.edu">dennisr@ext.msstate.edu</a>
Randy Smith	South Central	601 813-7166 cell	<a href="mailto:hsmith@ext.msstate.edu">hsmith@ext.msstate.edu</a>
Mike Howell	South	601 795-1425 cell	<a href="mailto:mshowell@ext.msstate.edu">mshowell@ext.msstate.edu</a>



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