

August 17, 2009

Effingham County AG News

Hopefully everyone is getting their share of the recent afternoon showers. I pray that we will continue to be blessed with timely rains throughout the rest of the growing season and that you will have a bountiful harvest.

Soybeans

A timely application of Dimilin and Boron can increase your soybean yield. The best time to apply Dimilin – Boron foliar spray is when the soybeans are in the full-bloom (R2) to early pod – fill (R3) stages. Pod elongation usually does not begin until 10-14 days after full bloom. An application of 2 oz. per acre Dimilin plus ¼ lb. per acre Boron should enable you to increase yield, control the velvetbean caterpillar, suppress the soybean looper, increase insecticide effectiveness if loopers develop, and increase potential profitability of your soybeans.

There is no need to apply more than ¼ lb. per acre of actual Boron. Rates above this amount can cause foliar burn.

[Soybean Rust Report](http://sbr.ipmpipe.org/cgi-bin/sbr/public.cgi) (Updated information related to soybean rust can be found at <http://sbr.ipmpipe.org/cgi-bin/sbr/public.cgi>)

Observation and Outlook - Disease Last Modified: 08/12/09

On Tuesday, 11 August Asian soybean rust was found to be increasing in incidence and severity in soybeans sentinel plots in Attapulgus. On the same day, Asian soybean rust was confirmed on soybeans in Tift County. Soybean producers across Southern Georgia should consider as they reached to full bloom to early pod development growth stage. We have seen an increased in the spread of Asian soybean rust over the past week. As of August 11, no soybean rust was found in Attapulgus Soybeans Fungicide Study in Untreated Control.

United States Soybean Rust Commentary (updated: 08/15/09)

On August 15th, soybean rust was reported in nine new counties in Mississippi, all in commercial soybean fields. The positive counties include Carroll, Grenada, Humphreys, Leflore, Montgomery, Sunflower, Yallabusha, Yazoo and Washington. Please refer to the Mississippi soybean rust commentary for more detailed information. Also on the 15th, soybean rust could no longer be detected in Texas. On August 13th, soybean rust was reported in Tensas County, Louisiana on soybeans and in Suwannee County, Florida on kudzu. In 2009, soybean rust has been found in seven states and 54 counties in United States, and in two states and five municipalities in Mexico.

Peanuts

How long does it take a Peg to Reach Harvestable Pod?

One question I get quite often is at what point (days after planting) is it too late for a peg that is just entering the soil to make a pod that will be harvested and grade out as a sound mature kernel? It depends on the cultivar but for the most part, and for mid maturing cultivars like Georgia Green and Georgia-06G, any peg that enters the soil after 90 days after planting will not have time to reach harvestable pod age/size.

Think of it this way. When you look at the Hull-Scrape Maturity Profile Chart you will notice it has 25 columns, with 2 columns representing one week, or a total of 12.5 weeks (87 days) from when a peg enters the soil until it reaches optimal maturity. If you look from left to right on the maturity profile chart, it takes about 12-14 columns (6-7 weeks, or about 45-50 days) from when a peg enters the soil until it reaches a stage of a “sound mature kernel” pod that will be harvested. If you have a field of a mid maturing cultivar that is at 90 days after planting, then pegs just beginning to swell would need a minimum of 45 days to get to 135 days after planting, which is just about time for harvest. For mid-late cultivars like Florida-07 and Georgia-07W, or late maturing cultivars like Georgia-02C, you can extend the time to about 100 days.

Bottom line is that after about 90 days after planting, any pegs that enter the soil will probably not make it to harvest. (John Beasley-Peanut Agronomist)

Forages

Armyworms, Armyworms and more Armyworms. Take a moment to scout your hay fields and pastures for worms. Many locations have been sprayed or are currently being sprayed to control worm infestations.

In late summer, almost every year, caterpillars invade pastures, hay fields, and turfgrass throughout the state. Particularly in pastures and hay fields, damage may be severe before the worms are noticed. The grass is not killed, but hay yield and forage can be reduced to almost nothing over whole fields in extreme cases. The damage to established turf is mostly aesthetic, but newly sodded or sprigged areas can be more severely damaged or even killed. In late summer and fall, most of the worms are fall armyworms (FAW). The adult moths are active at night and females lay eggs in batches of 50 to several hundred. Eggs hatch in 2 - 10 days, and the young larvae begin to feed on leaf tissue. Damage from small larvae may at first look like skeletonizing, but as the worms grow, the entire leaf is consumed. Armyworms are most active early and late in the day, spending the hotter hours down near the soil in the shade. Larvae feed for 2 to 3 weeks before pupating in the soil. Moths emerge 10 - 14 days later.

While fall armyworms are the most likely caterpillars to invade pastures, they are not the only ones. True armyworms damage pastures in late spring some years, but disappear as the weather warms. The damage is feeding but can significantly reduce forage or delay the first cutting in hay fields. Unlike FAW, true armyworm moths can overwinter throughout the state. The worms closely resemble FAW and treatment, if needed, is the same. More widespread and common in pastures throughout the state is the striped grassworm looper, *Mocis latipes*. This worm is easily distinguished from armyworms by its “looping” method of crawling. Size is similar to armyworms (full grown larvae are about 1 ½” inch long), but *Mocis* has many stripes running

lengthwise down the body, including the head. Moths are active throughout the growing season, and populations can build to levels that rival FAW outbreaks. When mature, Mocis worms have the distinctive habit of pupating up on the grass plant, in a folded leaf, rather than in the soil like armyworms.

Few insecticides are labeled for use on caterpillars in pastures. Familiar stand-bys are Lannate and Sevin. Lannate requires a 3-day harvest or 7-day grazing interval. For Sevin, the interval is 14 days. More recent additions to the list are Tracer and the insect growth regulator Dimilin. Tracer is labeled at 1-2 oz. per acre, and the only grazing restriction is the cows should not graze until sprays have dried. Pre-harvest interval for hay is three days. Dimilin works by disrupting the molting process, and will not kill the worms quickly. The 2 oz. rate is very effective on small (<1/2" or so) worms, but less effective as the worms get larger. It is not a rescue treatment for heavy infestations of large armyworms. There is no grazing restriction for Dimilin.

In any case, if the hay is close to ready, cut it before treating. It also helps to increase your spray volume as much as possible, particularly with Sevin on larger worms. Recognize that very large worms are tough to kill and the best option may be to wait until the next generation and target the smaller worms. Sometimes, the next generation will move on and no treatment will be necessary. (Will Hudson – Extension Entomologist)

For those of you who are planning on overseeding pastures or planting small grains for grazing this fall, be sure to scout for armyworms. If armyworms invade the small grain seedling in the early stages, they can potentially destroy it. Do not let armyworms destroy the investment of your winter grazing forage and delay the date the cattle will be allowed to graze.

If I can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 754-8040 (office) or 429-8004 (mobile).