



Terrell County Extension

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PEANUT MATURITY

We will officially begin checking peanut maturity (Hull Scrape) on Tuesday August 31st from 9:00a.m. till 12 Noon.

The 1st peanuts checked last week were 06G's planted April 27th. They were 24 days out. We will look for you at the shed behind the Terrell County Extension office. Please bring a representative sample from your field/s. If you want to pick the peanuts off the vines first, please bring at least one plant with you so we can check vine health and peg strength. **Please stay around and help.**

Sometimes it can get very busy and the more help we have the quicker we can run maturity samples.

We will try being available for maturity sampling every Tuesday until the number of samples increases, then we will add days we will offer checking.

A NEW SOYBEAN INSECT???

I have been receiving emails from our UGA entomology specialists for several weeks now about this unusual pest infesting soybeans. It appears the first reported infestations were along the border of South Carolina and Georgia about 2 months ago and it has begun its march South. The insect has a name that is difficult to pronounce but now we have given it one that everyone can remember. Below is some information about the **Bean Plataspid (aka Kudzu Bug)**;

Phillip Roberts Extension Entomologist

Counties infested with Bean Plataspids continue to increase. To date the bug has been observed in over 40 counties in Georgia and 13 counties in South Carolina. In the future we will begin referring to it as the "Kudzu Bug". We have been trying to document the spread of kudzu bugs. It is important that we quantify how far the bug moves this year as that will help us predict where the bug will likely be found next year. If you observe Kudzu Bugs on soybeans or kudzu please let your county extension office know. We recently observed low numbers of the bug in Dooly County.

During recent weeks we have established several trials to determine if the kudzu bug is an economic pest of soybean. We are currently suggesting a threshold of 3-5 kudzu bugs per plant. Pyrethroids appear to provide good control, however re-infestations occur relatively quickly in heavily infested areas.

This insect is not native to Georgia or the U.S. and was first observed last fall accumulating on homes and other structures and feeding on kudzu in several NE Georgia counties. The pest is native to India and China, where it feeds on kudzu. It has also been reported as a pest of numerous legume crops, including soybeans. Adults have been observed feeding on the main stem of plants and on foliage. We are not sure if vegetative soybeans are being economically damaged but high populations have been observed feeding on plants in some fields. It will be important for growers to monitor fields infested with the bug when pods begin forming. If feeding is occurring on pods or blooms, treatment with insecticide would be recommended based on available information. Bean Plataspid eggs hatch in 4-5 days and the nymph stage will likely be 25-30 days. We will continue to provide updates as we learn more.

SOYBEANS

For the past two weeks I have looked at many soybean fields and seeing minor levels of a couple of diseases, insects and defoliation of soybeans. We do not have Asian rust, so far, and most of our beans are past the stage that can be hurt if it shows up. What I have seen is this; dryland Group V beans planted early are about through and are beginning to drop leaves. Some of the leaf drop is due to dry weather and it makes the leaf drop look more severe than you would expect for this time of year. Later planted group V irrigated beans have had one generation of soybean loopers and are poised for another. There are many soybean looper moths and pupae in these fields. Some of these fields did not get sprayed and defoliation has reached 20-30% so it is critical that twice a week scouting will be necessary in order to time a spray application for maximum benefit if the insect populations reach treatable levels.

COTTON

Stink Bugs: Stink bug damage is common in most fields, but levels of damage are variable. The number of stink bug susceptible bolls is declining in early planted fields and thresholds may be raised; an individual boll is susceptible to stink bug damage for about 25 days. However, much of our cotton still has numerous bolls on the plant which are susceptible to stink bugs; the 3rd, 4th, and 5th weeks of bloom are critical in terms of stink bug management. Dr. Mike Toews, UGA Research Entomologist in Tifton, reported this week that they are beginning to observe some southern green stink bugs. However the majority of the stink bug complex continues to be comprised of brown stink bugs. Get in the field and crack some quarter sized bolls for internal bug damage. If threshold levels are exceeded, treat in a timely basis. If threshold levels are not exceeded, allow the beneficial insects to do their job.

PONDS

We have had several calls lately about ponds. Most of the questions were about weed problems. With the kind of summer we have had, drought and heat index above 100 degrees for weeks at a time, the health of the fish in ponds could be a concern. In the Sunday August 8, 2010 edition of the Homefront section in a Valdosta, Georgia paper I read an excellent article from Jake Price of Lowndes County Extension. The title of the article was Pond Management: Avoiding fish kill in your pond. I will attempt to summarize his information;

Fish kills from oxygen depletion can happen from April through September, but July, August, and September are the critical months to pay attention to your pond. Most fish kills in late summer are the result of low oxygen levels.

With limited rainfall in certain locations and high temperatures, it is probable that some ponds will have problems with low oxygen. Evaporation rates can reach 0.25 inches per day in the summer and that can quickly lower pond levels.

If pond depth drops, this concentrates metabolites such as ammonia, carbon dioxide, and other wastes. Increased concentrations of metabolites can stress or kill fish.

Not everyone has the means to re-fill a low pond. The best alternative to filling a pond is mechanical aeration. An aerator can only oxygenate a certain amount of area so make sure you have enough aerators to do the job. If you use mechanical aeration it is very important to not disturb the sediments at the bottom of your pond. Churning the sediments can lead to increased oxygen use because microbes use oxygen to break down the organic matter in sediments.

Driving a boat with an outboard motor around the pond is not recommended because it can cause more problems if sediments are stirred up. An outboard motor can help if it is kept in a fixed position and produces a current.

How do you know if your pond is in danger of oxygen depletion? There are several signs. If your fish come to the top of the water gulping air that means the oxygen level is low. Fish usually do this in the early morning.

Phytoplankton, which are microscopic plants floating in water, produce oxygen during the day. During the night they do not produce much oxygen so the fish are stressed from low oxygen by early morning. As the sun comes up, phytoplankton produce more oxygen, and the fish return to deeper water.

Periods of cloudy weather can trigger fish kills. Phytoplankton produce less oxygen on cloudy days. This in combination with low water levels and warm pond water can cause fish kills.

Overstocked ponds are more likely to have oxygen depletion and fish kills.

Feeding fish makes oxygen depletion more likely because it causes fish to produce more waste which requires more oxygen to break down. Also sudden changes in water color or a bad smell may indicate oxygen depletion.

If you see any signs of oxygen depletion, act quickly because fish will die if the levels remain low. Stressed fish are also more susceptible to parasites and diseases which can kill fish.