



Terrell County Extension News – July 15, 2010

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Peanuts

I looked at some 06G fields Monday. I had checked them the previous Thursday and didn't find much of anything. Monday was a little different. Every stop I made found something. Nothing with numbers high enough to cause concern, but insect populations have grown since I checked the peanuts last Thursday. I saw several Southern Corn Rootworm adults flying and wherever I saw them I stopped to check the peanuts to see if I could find larvae. I did not find any feeding on young peanuts. Looking for foliage feeding insects, I would vigorously shake 3 feet of peanut row on each side of the row, 6 feet total and look on the ground. Every stop would find a Budworm, Stinkbug, Three Cornered Alfalfa Hopper, or Fire Ant (finding Fire Ants is not a bad thing). I never found all insects at the same time. I said all of that to try to let you know it's time to be checking the fields. What bothered me about the Stinkbugs I found in peanuts was the fact that across the field road was some non-irrigated cotton. I found brown Stinkbug adults, adult Southern Green, and immature Southern Green in the cotton. Fortunately, the cotton was not blooming yet, so the stinkbugs are not of too much concern. Below is the UGA recommendation concerning Three Cornered Alfalfa Hopper in peanuts;

The adults will fly when disturbed. The nymphs do not fly and can be found in the peanut canopy. We should be finding mostly adults in the fields at this time. Please check your fields closely for this pest and if more than one per location checked is found then apply an insecticide. This insect is in the process of colonizing fields at this time by laying eggs. Treatments now can help prevent heavy and damaging populations of nymphs in the future. This pest is a concern until 25 days before digging (105+ days for most varieties, longer (125 days) for the 150 day varieties). No treatment is recommended within 25 days of digging.

Remember these insects will feed on the lateral branches and stems at ground level causing death of branches and possibly open points of entry for soil borne disease.

Everybody is trying to get rid of pigweed in all crops. Please be careful as you decide when to spray, what to spray, and where to spray. Paraquat will drift, 2,4DB will drift. Both can cause problems to nearby crops. I know you are cautious and if you are o the sprayer if the wind gets up, you will stop spraying. However, your spray man may not know to stop. Please be diligent as we clean up weed problems as we get these crops laid by.

Phillip Roberts, Extension Entomologist, Tifton, GA

"Aphids are building to higher numbers, which we expected. Scouts and consultants need to be looking now for the aphid fungus. Historically, we don't treat a lot of aphids in Georgia cotton, and we try to wait for the fungus. In cotton setting bolls, we need to be on the lookout for stink bugs, and we have had reports of economic populations. That's not unusual at this point in the season, either. Primarily, brown stink bugs are being observed.

"Spider mites are still out there, but not many fields have required treatment. Keep in mind that they're present, so try to do as little disruption as possible if you're treating other pests. Try to select products that will have a minimal effect on mite populations. We don't have a lot of conventional cotton, but we do have a tobacco budworm flight in South Georgia, so be aware of that. Corn earworm numbers are picking up in South Georgia, too, and this is about the point when that tends to happen."

We had a few peanut fields sprayed last month in Terrell and surrounding counties for tobacco budworms feeding on young blooming peanuts. This month is the traditionally large tobacco budworm moth flight, so keeping a close check on peanuts is a good idea.

CORN

Have you walked through your corn lately? If you found rust or leaf blight earlier you probably sprayed and thought that was that. Hopefully, you were correct in that assumption. If your corn crop is not at the full dent stage now you need to go look at the crop again to be sure rust or leaf blight has not re-infested. Some growers have already applied a 2nd fungicide, other didn't need to, and still others have not looked closely yet. Go walk some corn fields (early in the morning, preferably) and decide if you are ok or need to make a final fungicide application decision. It's getting late and most corn fields are past the stage rust or leaf blight will cause yield reductions, but we do have some corn that was planted late or was replanted that needs to be checked.

When to Stop Irrigating Corn

You should continue to irrigate your corn until it reaches physiological maturity and formation of the black layer. This should occur around 115-120 days after germination (same as planting date if you know it germinated at planting) for most of our hybrids but could be earlier if you happened to plant some of the earliest varieties. The black layer can be observed at the base of the kernel by breaking it away from the cob. More information can be found at the following Mississippi State Extension websites:

<http://msucares.com/crops/corn/corn2.html>

<http://msucares.com/crops/corn/corn7.html>