



THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

# COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Colleges of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences

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Dr. Bob Kemerait  
Extension Plant Pathologist

When you have the type environment/weather we have experienced in 2010 conditions become almost perfect for white mold where irrigation and/or rainfall occur. Despite our best programs white mold in peanuts is beginning to show up.

**You are going to see white mold infection spots express themselves no matter what material or spray interval you select if environmental conditions are right and the disease is present in the field.**

**None of the fungicides we have for white mold will keep it from occurring; they prevent it from spreading once it occurs and fortunately this is what we are observing in fields where timely sprays at correct rates of white mold materials have been applied.**

Stay on schedule and use recommended rates of fungicide regardless of whether you are on a 2 block or 4 block fungicide application program. To maintain control, especially if you are seeing white mold breaking through your treatments and showing some indication of spread you would be wise to consider the following points provided :

1. Spraying fungicides for white mold control at night may help.
2. Increasing your spray volume to help move product down the plant may help.
3. Timing application before a rain or an irrigation event (preferably allowing about 8 hours of drying time) may help (by washing the material down into the lower canopy and to the soil surface SNB).
4. If using Provost, increasing rate from 8.0 to 10.7 fl oz/A may help.
5. If using Artisan or Convoy, increasing the 2-app program rate to 32 and

26 ounces respectively may help. In a 4-block program, consider using 16 ounces of Artisan + 1 pt/A chlorothalonil or 13 oz Convoy + 1.5 pt/A chlorothalonil.

6. If you are experiencing problems controlling white mold and are using something other than Artisan, Convoy, or Provost, you might consider trying one of these products at the high rate.

### **More on Peanuts**

Dr. David Adams  
Extension Entomologist

As you are most certainly aware, three cornered alfalfa hopper has been an extremely common pest in our peanuts this year. They have also been responsible for girdling soybeans but this has gone largely unnoticed. Many peanut producers across the Coastal Plains area have sprayed 1-2 times for this insect and have asked the question, "Is there a point where we do not have to worry about damage from this pest?". Dr. David Adams, UGA Extension Entomologist, Peanuts, recommends controlling this pest to within 25-30 days of digging. **So once your peanuts are within 25-30 days of digging you can stop spraying for three cornered alfalfa hopper.**

Lesser cornstalk borer numbers are rapidly increasing in area peanut fields, especially in our fields with high sand content.

Phillip Roberts  
Extension Entomologist

**INSECT SITUATION:** We have received reports of several insect pests infesting cotton (corn earworm, tobacco budworm, stink bugs, fall and beet armyworms, soybean loopers, spider mites, and whiteflies). With pest such as spider mites and whiteflies it is important that growers are aware of their presence even if below threshold levels.

**Corn Earworm:** Both CEW and TBW complete a generation in about 4 weeks, thus we would anticipate trap captures to increase next week. We have also heard reports of increased moth activity in more southern counties. We typically observe caterpillar infestations in more southern counties before counties to their north. The only way you can really know the situation on your farm is to scout. Be sure scouts are monitoring all Bt cottons for CEW. Bollgard II and WideStrike are not immune to CEW damage. When CEW larvae greater than ¼ inch in length are found in Bt cotton, they are often associated with blooms and dried bloom tags. Treatments should be promptly initiated if 8 CEW larvae ¼ inch in length or greater are found per 100 plants.

**Stink Bugs:** Stink bugs have been the most common insect pests requiring treatment to date. We are observing more of a mixed population of southern green and brown stink bugs. Infestation levels are varied by location; don't assume all fields need to be treated. Scout and treat fields which exceed the boll injury threshold.

**Soybean Loopers:** We have received a few reports of soybean loopers infesting cotton. We would expect Bollgard II and WideStrike to provide good control of loopers; however Bollgard will not provide acceptable control. Treatment for soybean loopers should be based on defoliation and maturity of the crop. If larvae number 8 per row foot, treatment is often needed.

**Fall Armyworm:** We have received scattered reports of FAW from several areas of the state. Populations are lower when compared with 2009. The threshold for FAW is about 2X that used for CEW. Fall armyworm is a difficult pest to scout for, infestations are often found in the lower to mid canopy. This behavior also makes FAW a difficult pest to control with insecticide. Coverage and penetration down in the canopy is extremely important when targeting FAW with insecticide sprays. Small FAW larvae appear very similar to small CEW larvae and cannot readily be distinguished in the field. However, small FAW larvae often etch or feed on the inner surface of boll bracts and the presence of this type of feeding suggests you have some level of FAW in the field.

**Spider Mites and Whiteflies:** Although relatively few spider mites have required treatment, they are still present in several areas and must be managed. Low populations of silverleaf whiteflies have also been observed in some isolated fields. Be especially observant for SLWFs in hairy leaf cottons. The presence of spider mites or SLWFs in a field should influence decisions you make for other pests. Only apply insecticides based on thorough scouting and appropriate thresholds. Also avoid treatments likely to flare these pests.

**INSECT UPDATES:** Check the **Cotton Insect Hotline (1-800-851-2847)** for updates on current insect conditions. The Cotton Pest Management is on the UGA Cotton Homepage at: <http://www.ugacotton.com>