



March 2, 2009



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Upcoming Production Meetings:

Winter Grazing and Row Crop Cover Crop Field Day: Wednesday, March 18, starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Monroe Gin in Uriah on Highway 21 South. We will meet in the field approximately ½ mile North of the Gin. Speakers, Tim Tucker, producer and Dr. Edzard van Zanten, AU Plant Breeder, Dr. Andrew Price, USDA Tillage Lab, Dr. Ed Jolley, NRCS and Dr. Don Ball, AU Forage Specialist and Regional Extension Agents, Anthony Wiggins, Ken Kelley and Richard Petcher.

WHEAT CROP UPDATE

Hessian Fly Are An Increased Threat to our Wheat Crop in Southwest Alabama

Wheat growers are encouraged to scout their wheat fields for Hessian fly. Bennie and Matt Watson near Atmore found Hessian fly pupae or flax seed in some of their wheat on February 10. The Hessian fly bio type L have also moved into Escambia County as well as already existing in Baldwin, Mobile and Washington.

The wheat varieties resistant to all Hessian fly planted in our area are: AGS 2010, AGS 2026 and Pioneer 26R61. The Pioneer 26R61 may not be totally resistant to biotype L Hessian fly. AGS 2000 and most other wheat varieties planted here are resistant to most Hessian fly but not biotype L. So these varieties warrant scouting also. Most of the older wheat varieties like USG 3209 and Coker 9663 are susceptible to Hessian fly. Scouting these varieties is highly encouraged. Growers in this area who produced wheat in the late 80's remember well the devastating affect the Hessian fly can have on a crop.

If you find Hessian fly pupae in your wheat can a spring application of an insecticide be applied to control the Hessian fly? Yes it can be done. However, it requires intense scouting and precise timing in order to accomplish control. The Hessian fly pupae or flax seed found at this time in our wheat are the result of Hessian fly egg laying late last fall and over the winter. The flax seed can be found just under the outer leaf sheaf, at the crown, just above the root system of the plant. This will actually be under the ground. By carefully examining and monitoring those flax seed you will be able to observe those pupae hatch into flies. The time at which pupae begin to hatch is the time to apply a long residual synthetic pyrethroid insecticide spray that will control the adults and young larvae. University data indicates that Karate Z 2.08 at the 1.92 oz rate is a preferred product. This will also knock out any aphids present in the field.

Spring application of a pyrethroid to control Hessian fly is not for the novas. Just guessing at the timing is just throwing your money into the wind. So typically it is not recommended that growers spring apply insecticides for the Hessian fly. However, if you as a grower find Hessian fly in your wheat and are also willing to intensively scout your wheat you may want to try the spring application of a pyrethroid. The

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suggestion was made by Watson that after thoroughly scouting your fields to assess the amount of infestation, to then flag off a ten foot section of your field where you found Hessian fly to make it easier to monitor the pupae hatch timing. There is no guarantee that the spring application will work. It will depend on precise timing.

For more foliar Hessian fly spray information here are the following web sites and a short article from each.

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/plymouth/pubs/ent/HFLYupdate03.html>.

Can a spring infestation be controlled with a foliar insecticide? By Doug Johnson *University of Kentucky, Small Grains Entomologist* Yes, but it isn't easy. Remember the foliar insecticide must kill the adults or the very young maggots before they move under leaf sheaths. Information from North Carolina and Georgia indicates that a well-timed application of a long residual synthetic pyrethroid insecticide will control the adults and young larvae. Information from North Carolina (see link below) indicates that Warrior® is a preferred product. The major question then becomes When should I spray? There are two ways to help time treatments if infestations in volunteer wheat are heavy. 1) Check for the flax seed (pupal) stage in infested shoots of volunteer wheat. Squeeze them, if they are creamy white it is too early to treat. If they appear orange they are about ready to emerge as adults. An application to a field at increased risk might be warranted. This is likely to occur some time in March but is completely dependent upon weather, specifically temperature. 2) One can look for Hessian fly eggs on the leaf but this will be very time-consuming. The tiny, almost transparent eggs are laid end to end in a row between leaf veins on the upper surface of wheat leaves. Treatment may be justified if there are 4 or more eggs per leaf.

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/plymouth/pubs/ent/HFLYupdate03.html> This is a link to a Hessian Fly in Wheat website maintained by Dr. John Van Duyn of North Carolina State University. This site addresses Hessian fly in general. However, here is a short article on spring Hessian fly problems. Fields that passed the winter with a significant Hessian fly infestation will also be attacked by the next generation of larvae recycling in the crop. Fields with low tiller counts should be examined in January or February for Hessian fly puparia. If a pyrethroid is applied as the flies emerge and lay eggs, usually in early March, a high level of control may be accomplished. The need for a pyrethroid treatment may be judged by examining the plants for puparia, to identify fields that will have high fly numbers, and later scouting heavily infested fields for eggs on the top surface of new leaves. Eggs are very small, about half the size of a period, and magnification may be needed. An experienced person with good eye sight can readily detect Hessian fly eggs, especially in direct sun-light since the eggs will shine. Egg counts of four or more per leaf may justify a pyrethroid application. **Growth Stages of Wheat: Identification and Understanding Improve Crop Management:** By Travis D. Miller, <http://lubbock.tamu.edu/othercrops/pdf/wheat/wheatgrowthstages.pdf>

Reading and studying this article may greatly help you as a grower have a more thorough understanding of the growth habit of wheat and how management inputs at specific growth stages can affect forage and grain yield. There are 213,000 articles on this topic. Dr. Steve Harrison, LSU Small Grain Breeder, recommended this one.

The Major Row Crops Budgets

have been updated and posted on the web. The easiest way to get them is to go to:

www.alabamacrops.com

Then select "Enterprise Budgets" and then choose "Major Row Crops: from the drop down menu.

Updated 2009 Machinery Costs can be found at:

<http://www.ag.auburn.edu/agec/pubs/budgets/2009/RowCrops/Mach2009P.pdf>

Soybean Planting Time Soon to Come

By Dr. Dennis Delaney, Extension Specialist – Soybeans & Conservation Cropping Systems

In 2008 Alabama growers planted 350,000 acres of soybeans. The average yield of these beans was 35 bushels per acre. This was one bushel short of the state record. One hundred fifty thousand of these acres were planted behind wheat.

Don't forget the basics. Soil test and lime. Inoculate if out of soybeans 2 years or more, and use higher efficiency strains, soybean specific inoculants. Use seed applied fungicides for no-till, cool or wet soils, and when planting marginal quality seed. Soybeans are a very poor rotation with peanuts. They share white mold, CBR and other diseases. Nematodes have become a major problem in our soybeans. Look for varieties that are nematode resistant. Most maturity group IV and some V have no nematode resistance. Select varieties for disease resistance, for both soil and foliar diseases. Use maturity groups spread for timely harvest, to avoid conflicts with corn and other crop harvest, and to receive the right rains and avoid historical rain periods for harvest.

Plant populations: Soybeans are very forgiving of a wide range of plant populations: They can make a good crop from 80 to 200,000 plants per acre. About 150,000 plants per acre is usually optimum. So plant about 180,000 seed per acre to obtain this final plant stand. On a 36 inch row plant 12 seed per row foot. On 30 inch rows plant 10 seed per row foot. Increase for tough conditions, imprecise planters or drill. You can use less seed with precision and also planting slow. Increase seeding rate when planting early or planting late for a certain maturity group. Also increase seeding rate when planting on narrow rows.

Planting date “rules of thumb” for Alabama:

MG IV: early April through early May

MG V: May 1 through mid-June

MG VI, VII, VIII: May 5 through mid-June

If not planting at the optimum planting time use closer row spacing and higher populations. This can compensate for less growth per plant.

Soybean Varieties for 2009

University Soybean Variety Tests and Short Lists

Auburn: <http://www.ag.auburn.edu/aaes/communications/agronomy/ay298soybean08.pdf>

University of Georgia <http://www.caes.uga.edu/commodities/fieldcrops/soybeans/>

Mississippi: <http://msucares.com/crops/soybeans/variety-list09.pdf> “Top Dawgs”

UGA Soybean Production Guide: Also a very helpful resource.

<http://www.caes.uga.edu/commodities/fieldcrops/soybeans/documents/2009COMPILEDISOYBEANPRODGUIDE.pdf>

APPLIED SCIENCE REPORT

On Farm variety testing and research can be very helpful and make good field demonstrations for agronomic practices in our area. Research is conducted at the university and research stations. These however, are done on grower's fields and typically on a larger scale. Often they are as much a part of a verification program for our area as they are research. Results were recorded and published in Regional News Letter and Auburn University web site. I would like to thank each grower and sponsor for their hard work in conducting these tests that are so helpful to our area row crop producers.

MG V to VII Roundup Ready^R Soybean Varieties, Escambia County, AL 2008

Bennie and Matt Watson, Producers

Dennis Delaney, Extension Specialist, and Richard Petcher, Regional Extension Agent

This trial was planted on 18 June 2008 following a wheat grain crop on the Bennie and Matt Watson Farm near Atmore, AL. Each cultivar was planted in a single block of 36 ft wide and 725 ft long in 7.5 inch rows using a grain drill. Plots were maintained according to Extension recommendations. Plots were harvested on 6 November 2008 using the producers' combine and a weighing grain buggy. No significant lodging was noted for any variety. Yields were adjusted to 13% moisture and 60 lb/bu.

Table 1. Escambia County MG V to VII RR Soybean Varieties, 2008

Brand	Variety	Bu/A @ 13.0%
NK	S 74-W6	58.8
NK	S 78-G6	58.5
Asgrow	7601	57.4
Asgrow	6702 RR	56.8
Asgrow – DeKalb	6301 RR	56.0
DeKalb- DKB	64-51 RR	55.8
Pioneer	96M60	55.7
NK	S 65-M3	55.2
Terral	59R16	55.1
Dyna-Gro	35K73	54.1
Terral	55R15	53.7
NK	S 61-Q2	53.1
NK	S 68-D4	52.8
NK	S 80-P2	51.9
DeltaPine	6568 RR	51.9

Appreciation is expressed to Matt and Bennie Watson for their cooperation, as well as seed industry reps for their support, especially Frank Moore and Jenny Buller of Syngenta for participating in planting and harvesting. The Alabama Soybean Producers (checkoff) grant support is also appreciated.

Soybean Varieties for 2009 by Company Top Listings

Besides the University Variety Test there are also many company tests. Below is the list of top soybean varieties each company has to offer growers in Southwest, Alabama. Unfortunately, I was not able to get a list from every company. However, this list should be helpful. You are encouraged to look on line for your variety choice and study this information carefully before selecting your seed.

AGSouth Genetics Top Soybean Varieties For 2009

Jimmy Clements 229-881-2799 or 800-543-4164

For more information: www.Agsouthgenetics.com

Group 5.6 AGS 568 one of the most nematode resistant varieties on the market.

Group 6.0 AGS 606 good nematode package

Group 7.5 AGS 758 very good nematode package

Group 8 AGS Prichard

Croplan Genetics Top Soybean Varieties For 2009

Mike Daughtrey 334-790-5190

For more information: www.Croplangenetics.com

CL 5007 Very good for this area. Very little seed.

RC 6298-Tawny Tan bean with Root knot Nematode Resistance, Stem Canker, and Soybean Mosaic Virus. Medium Intermediate Bush. Above Average Standability.

RT 7355- Moderate Root Knot Resistance, Very good field PRR resistance, Very good frogeye and stem canker resistance. Medium Plant Ht.

RC 4998- This is a very unique bean. It is a 5.4 maturity, Indeterminate variety. Planted in Headland Answer Plot it was later than the group 7 beans. Very Tall, Tawny tan bean. Strong SDS and Frogeye score as well as PRR.

Asgrow, DeKalb, DeltaPine Top Soybean Varieties for 2009: Rod Higdon 251-701-6118 www.asgrowanddekalb.com

Group 5. Asgrow 5905 RR Excellent late group 5 bean that fits all soil types. It is a tall plant that has consistently been a good yielding bean. It is a grey bean with good frogeye and sudden death ratings. This bean is not resistant to southern root knot nematode. This is my top recommendation in Group 5.

2. Asgrow DP 5915 RR Very similar bean to AG 5905 with similar disease ratings and yields across soil types. This is a brown bean with good soybean cyst nematode tolerance. It is not resistant to southern root knot nematode.

Group 6 Asgrow 6301 RR High yielding bean that fits across soil types. It is a grey bean with resistance to southern root knot nematodes. It has medium plant height with an average disease rating. Excellent yields in early Group 6.

2. Asgrow DK 64-51RR This bean also has an average disease package with high resistance to southern root knot nematode. It has excellent yields and is a brown bean with good growth characteristics.

3. Asgrow DP 6568RR Good yields in mid group 6 - brown bean with good tolerance to soybean cyst nematode and southern root knot nematode. It is a more bushy type plant that would fit well in wide rows.

Group 7 Asgrow 7502 RR - Good southern root knot tolerant soybean with excellent yields. A newly advanced soybean that fits well in our southern markets planted behind wheat. It is a brown bean with a semi-bushy plant type that makes it a good fit in wide rows. It is a tall bean with excellent frogeye tolerance.

2. Asgrow 7501 RR A soybean that is very similar to Asgrow 7502 but not as bushy and would work better in narrow, drilled rows. Similar performance behind wheat.

3. Asgrow DP 7330 RR A Delta Pineland bean that is brown with early 7 maturity. This bean has an average disease package and has shown good yields across soil types. It has moderate resistance to southern root knot nematode, but not as good as Ag 7501 and Ag 7502.

4. Asgrow H7242 RR An excellent group 7 soybean that is brown in color with tall plant height. A older Hartz soybean that has been very consistent in yields for several years. This soybean is a good fit behind wheat acres with a 7.4 relative maturity. AS H7242 has been our best selling group 7 soybean in this area for several years.

5. Asgrow 7601 RR - A very tall late (7.6) soybean that is grey in color. This soybean has shown high yields but lacks southern root knot tolerance. It has excellent frogeye tolerance. This would be a good late 7 bean in areas where southern root knot nematodes are not present.

6. Asgrow DP 7870 RR A Delta Pineland soybean that is brown in color. It is a bushy plant type that fits a wide row. This soybean's maturity is late group 7 (7.8). This soybean also is not tolerance to southern root knot nematode.

Dyna Gro Top Soybean Varieties For 2009

Ryan McKenzie 888-300-5079 www.DynaGro.com

DynaGro 33X55 – Attractive tawny on tan bean with excellent shatter resistance. Has a top notch disease package with root knot nematode resistance. Adaptable to all soil types and row widths. 5.5 maturity

DynaGro 35K73 – Yield leader in the South. 7.3 tawny on tan bean with an excellent disease package. Adapts well to all row widths and soil types

Pioneer Top Soybean Varieties for 2009

Rob Duffield 334-524-9553 and Ken McLeod 850-393-8216 www.pioneer.com

Pioneer 95M50 Widely adapted mid Group V. Herbicide resistance to RR/STS. High yield potential, determinant plant, good Southern root knot nematode resistance.

Pioneer 95Y70 New variety also with STS resistance. Also with good Southern root knot resistance with a 7 rating.

Pioneer 96M60 A good mid VI igh yielder suited for full season and double crop production. Rated a 7 on Southern root knot resistance.

Pioneer 97M50 Leading variety offering top yields. Rated an 8 on Southern root knot resistance.

Syngenta Northrup King and Garst Seed Company Top Soybean Varieties for 2009

Jenny Buller 229-221-9825 www.nk-us.com

NK S78-G6 Strong Standability with Root-Knot Tolerance. Very good stress tolerance. Dryland or Irrigated.

NK S68-D4 Dependable Yields. Very good stress tolerance and Southern Root-Knot protection. Dryland of Irrigated.

NK S74-W6 Excellent Choice for Irrigated, High Yielding Environments.

Terral Seed Company Top Soybean Varieties for 2009


Trey Cash 662-617-0326 www.terralseed.com

TV55R15 A mid V, tall plant with excellent Southern root knot nematode resistance. Grower documented #1 MGV in the Mid South. Produces best in clay and silt soils. Thrives in tough growing conditions while shooting for the moon in good conditions.

TV59R16 A late V, 36 inch tall plant with fair Southern root knot nematode tolerance.

Again, I hope this information has been helpful.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Petcher
Regional Extension Agent
Agronomic Crops