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News Letter September 2009

Late Season Insect Control

Dr. Ron Smith, AU Cotton Entomologist

Cotton Insect control is winding down in many fields. However, late planted or late maturing fields must still be monitored for stink bug damage. Stink bugs will continue to be a potential pest as long as young bolls, which we hope to harvest, are present and less than 25 days old. A boll is beyond stink bug damage when it is too hard to make an indentation on the outside with a thumb nail. The threshold for treating cotton for stink bugs should be about 30% internal boll damage when the cotton is in the 8th to 10th week of bloom. Late planted cotton should be treated using a 10% threshold until the 7th to 8th week of bloom.

Soybean loopers are beginning to show up in both cotton and soybeans in South Alabama. Velvetbean caterpillars, fall armyworms and green cloverworms are also in the foliage feeding mix on soybeans. It takes 5 to 8 days foliage feeding worms per foot to be a treatable level.

Nematodes in Your Fields

This of course is a very busy time for farmers, but August and September are the best times to take nematode samples. This will help you determine if a nematicide is needed in those fields for the next year. With Soybeans back into production we are seeing higher numbers of Root Knot nematodes than we expected in Soybean fields, even those fields which have been in a good rotation.

Wheat and Oat Recommended Varieties for South Alabama for 2009

This information was reviewed by Dr. Jerry Johnson, wheat breeder and variety trial coordinator with the University of Georgia, and Dr. Steve Harrison, wheat and oat breeder and variety trial coordinator with the LSU Ag Center.

Seventy percent of a grower's success in grain production is based on variety selection.

Recommended Wheat Varieties for 2009

This recommended list is compiled from our On Farm Variety Testing program in Southwest Alabama, as well as University Research in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana and Florida. Much of this information has also been compiled from Farmer's fields and variety performance across this area. Hopefully, this list will help you in your variety decisions and allow growers here to order their seed with confidence. It would be best for growers to order their seed as soon as possible.

The Top Performing Varieties for this area are:

AGS 2060 – This variety has topped some of the University Variety Trials for the past several years. This early maturing line was developed at the LSU Ag Center by Dr. Steve Harrison. It is early maturing with good resistance to stripe and leaf rust and Hessian fly. It has tolerance to powdery mildew and glume blotch. It is a good yielding variety with excellent test weight but will lodge under high N fertilization. This variety should be our home run variety this season. It may not be resistant to Hessian fly biotype L.; however it has held up very well against Hessian fly in the field in our area.

Terral LA 482 – Very early variety developed by Dr. Steve Harrison at LSU, and is handled by Terral Seed Company. It is susceptible to some races of leaf rust and intermediate for reaction to Hessian fly. It should not be planted early to avoid the risk of spring freeze damage.

AGS 2000 – This variety was developed by Dr. Jerry Johnson and released from the University of Georgia in 2000. It is sold by AgSouth Genetics. It has medium maturity and has good leaf rust and powdery mildew resistance. AGS 2000 has moderate resistance, but is not resistant to biotype L. Hessian fly.

AGS 2026 – This medium maturity variety was developed by Jerry Johnson with the University of Georgia. It is about four days later in maturity than AGS 2000. It has good yield, is resistant to leaf and stripe rust, and has biotype L Hessian fly resistance

AGS 2020 – was developed by Dr. Jerry Johnson in Georgia. It is about 4 days earlier in maturity than AGS 2000. It is also similar in lodging. It has good yield and excellent test weight. It is resistant to most strains of Hessian fly except biotype L.

AGS 2010 – This early maturing variety developed by Dr. Jerry Johnson with the University of Georgia is sold by AgSouth Genetics. It has excellent disease resistance and is resistant to biotype L of Hessian fly.

AGS 2031 – This is a mid maturing variety developed by Dr. Jerry Johnson, UGA and is sold by AgSouth Genetics. It is a mid maturing variety with excellent disease resistance and susceptible Hessian fly.

Pioneer 26R61 – is a good older variety from Pioneer. It has good yield potential and excellent test weight. This medium maturity variety has good leaf rust, intermediate powdery mildew reaction, and good soil borne virus resistance. It is resistant to most Hessian fly populations, including biotype L.

Terral LA 841 – This variety was developed by Dr. Steve Harrison at LSU and is marketed by Terral Seed Company. It is an early variety with high disease resistance, but is moderately susceptible to Hessian fly. This variety did well in South Alabama this past year, except in fields with heavy Hessian fly pressure. This is still a very popular variety planted in Louisiana and South and Central Mississippi.

A few new varieties that University Specialists highly suggest our growers try in South Alabama

Ogelthorpe – This variety was developed by Dr. Jerry Johnson with UGA in Georgia. It is marketed by Dyna Gro with Crop Production Service. It is a mid maturing variety with excellent yield potential and is resistant to Hessian fly and biotype L. It should be an excellent variety for South Alabama when planting early.

Baldwin – This variety was developed by Dr. Jerry Johnson with UGA in Georgia. It is marketed by Dyna Gro with Crop Production Service. It is a late maturing variety so will only work in South Alabama if planted very early. It is probably not a good variety for Baldwin County where we typically do not get much vernalization. It has excellent yield potential and is resistant to Hessian fly but not biotype L. Again this variety should be planted early. Seed will be very limited for 2009-10.

AGS 2035 – This variety is to replace AGS 2000. It very similar to AGS 2000, but has a better yield and better disease package. This variety was developed by Dr. Jerry Johnson with UGA in Georgia. It is now handled by Ag

South Genetics. It is a mid maturing variety with excellent yield potential and is resistant to Hessian fly but not biotype L. It should be an excellent variety for South Alabama. In the UGA variety testing program this variety topped the three year average for South Georgia.

Terral LA 821 – This new variety was developed by Dr. Steve Harrison at LSU. It is very similar to LA 841 in maturity and growth. However 821 has an improved disease package and higher test weight. It has moderate resistance to Hessian fly.

Wet Ground – Several growers this last year tried the Terral varieties on their wettest ground. These varieties were developed in Louisiana where the climate is much wetter than here. These varieties performed relatively well here on wet ground.

Georgia Gore – is a Public Variety that has done well here. It is also an excellent forage wheat. It has poor leaf rust and stripe rust resistance and poor Hessian fly resistance. If a fungicide is applied and Hessian fly are not a problem it usually makes a decent yield. It is not recommended for top grain production.

Fleming – is an old variety that has always done very well in South Alabama. This variety has a low chilling requirement and has consistently yielded well when planted late. Fleming has good leaf rust, Stripe rust and Powdery mildew resistance and only fair Hessian fly resistance.

Hessian fly – The biotype L Hessian fly is now in Southwest Alabama. They appear to be heavier in Escambia and Washington counties than they are in Baldwin, Clarke, Mobile, Monroe, Conecuh and Butler. The only varieties so far that are resistant to biotype L Hessian fly and are recommended for South Alabama are Pioneer 26R61, AGS 2026 and Ogelthorpe. Entomologist across the South, agree that Hessian fly will be a major problem in wheat production this upcoming year.

Varieties Not To Plant

Coker 9663 – This variety is from AgriPro-Coker. Its weakness is that it is susceptible to some races of leaf rust and moderately susceptible to Hessian fly.

USG 3209 – This variety was developed by Virginia Tech and is marketed by UniSouth Genetics. This is a high yielding variety in South Alabama, but only has fair resistance to leaf rust and glume blotch. It is susceptible to most Hessian fly biotypes.

Planting Dates: It is important to know the vernalization and the maturity of the variety being planted. A wheat with a medium vernalization and medium maturity must be planted early in South Alabama to perform its best. If planted late it may not perform at all. A wheat variety with a short vernalization and short maturity must be planted late. If it is planted too early it may be severely damaged or lost to late frosts. The recommended planting date here is from November 15 through December 15. The medium varieties should be planted from November 10 through Thanksgiving, and the early varieties planted from Thanksgiving on. A few growers in this area have planted medium maturity varieties November 1-10. They performed a little better than when were planted November 15. However, planting November 1-10 increases the risk of frost damage and Hessian fly damage.

Varieties to plant early here are: AGS 2026, Baldwin and Ogelthorpe. Do not plant these varieties late and expect them to perform well.

Varieties to plant late here are: AGS 2035, AGS 2060, LA 482 and LA 841. Do not plant these varieties early as they may suffer from frost injury.

Lodging – Varieties that tend to lodge in our area are AGS 2000, LA 841 and AGS 2020. This is due to their high yields, plant height and weak straw strength. Consider using a little less Nitrogen on these varieties to reduce lodging.

Oat Varieties for South Alabama

Horizon 201 – is also a new dual purpose oat that is available this season. It was developed and jointly released by Drs. Ron Barnett with the University of Florida and Steve Harrison with LSU. It should be one of the best dual purpose (grain and forage) oats and is marketed by Plantation Seed.

Horizon 270 – was also co-developed by Drs. Harrison and Barnett and should be considered for this planting season. It is marketed by Plantation Seed. Horizon 270 is somewhat shorter and earlier than Horizon 201 and has very high grain yield potential. It should be one of the best oats available for 2009.

Trophy – oat was developed by Steve Harrison of the LSU Agricultural Center and is marketed by Terral Seed Company. It has excellent test weight and is resistant to crown rust, but susceptible to stem rust. Stem rust is normally not a problem in this area.

Horizon 474 – is an excellent, early-maturing forage oat that will also yield respectable grain yields. It is marketed by Plantation Seed Company.

Harrison – is an old variety developed by Howard Harrison with Coker Pedigree Seed in the mid 80's. It performed very well in our regional variety test. It is excellent for both grain and forage.

Additional Sources of Variety Trial Data

Louisiana Yield Trial Results can be found at: http://www.agronomy.lsu.edu/LSUWheat/LSUWHEAT.html

Mississippi Yield Trial Results can be found at: http://msucares.com/crops/variety/index.html

Georgia Yield Trial Results can be found at: http://www.caes.uga.edu/commodities/swvt/small.html

Auburn University Yield Trial Results can be found at:
http://www.ag.auburn.edu/aaes/communications/publications/forageandfield.html#anchor818520

COTTON DEFOLIATION 2009

Dr. Mike Patterson, Extension Weed Scientist with Auburn University

It looks like 2009 may be a good year for cotton in Alabama. The crop overall has had sufficient water and many fields are primed for excellent yields. Hopefully weed control has been maintained and our cotton crop is clean now. After late season insect control, the final step in production before harvest is cotton defoliation and/or boll opening. Harvest aid materials can take leaves off earlier, open bolls, and suppress new growth in late season to facilitate earlier harvest and obtain a clean, once-over harvest for optimum yields.

Some new products have been developed within the past few years that have been registered for cotton defoliation. Aim, Blizzard, ET, and Resource are herbicidal-based products that are all used at relatively low rates (0.6 to 8 fl. oz per acre) to take mature leaves off cotton that is 60 to 70 percent open. These materials do not open bolls or provide any re-growth suppression when used alone. They are fast acting and generally cost effective. A single application of any of these materials with one pint per acre crop oil concentrate (COC) will generally provide about 80 percent defoliation. Sequential applications 5 to 7 days apart will provide 95 percent or greater defoliation. In my opinion, the best way to use these products is in combination with ethephon, especially if a single application only will be made. This combination takes the leaves off and opens bolls, but doesn't provide any regrowth suppression. Regrowth suppression is important if you cannot harvest the crop within 10 days following application. On Roundup Ready or Roundup Ready Flex cotton, the only materials that provide significant re-growth suppression are those that contain thidiazuron as an active ingredient. These products include Dropp SC (and generic versions) and Ginstar and will usually suppress re-growth for up to three weeks if used at the appropriate rate. On conventional (non-transgenic) varieties, glyphosate (Roundup, etc.) can be used to suppress re-growth.

Def/Folex (trade names for the same active ingredient) have been around a long time and still provide good defoliation of mature leaves. They work very well in combination with thidiazuron and ethephon products. As the weather gets cooler in late fall, a little Def/Folex in the mixture will help increase the activity of thidiazuron materials.

We have a couple of "activated ethephon" products on the market including Finish and FirstPick. These are ethephon based materials that contain additional ingredients that increase the activity of ethephon, thereby helping to open bolls 2 to 3 days faster than regular ethephon and also increasing overall defoliation, especially when used with thidiazuron products. This may be important if a hurricane is headed your way and you want to get the crop out of the field before the storm hits. On the other hand, if you don't think there is time to defoliate and harvest before the storm hits, experience shows it is probably best to wait until after the storm passes before defoliating. Cotton defoliated and standing in the field when hurricane force winds hit will almost certainly result in most of the lint hitting the ground.

Finally, we are revising an Alabama Extension System circular that provides information on harvest aides and their use under various environmental conditions. Circular ANR-715 "Cotton Defoliation" is being revised and will be available as an "on-line" publication hopefully by the middle of September. This publication gives an overview of the timing for defoliant applications and lists products and their use rates. It also will give information for special conditions, like defoliating rank cotton or weedy cotton. Look for the revised version after September 15th on our extension website at www.aces.edu or www.alabamacrops.com

Soybean Harvest Aids or Desiccants

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

We'll soon be harvesting early soybeans, although many wheat-beans still have a long ways to go. For various reasons, we often have many fields remaining green after pods are dry and ready. Trying to combine through this green material slows harvest and increases the strain on combines. Waiting for leaves to come off can result in shattering and seed deterioration. Several studies, including the ones we've conducted in Alabama, have shown a 2 to 5 bu/A yield increase through more efficient harvesting, as well as earlier harvest at up to 2X the field speed (more acres/day with less fuel), after using a harvest aid application in fields having large amounts of green soybean plants or weeds.

When to Apply Harvest Aids

It is important that growers are aware that these materials will only dry up green leaves and stems – they will not "ripen", speed up maturity, or dry down the soybean seed itself. Think of them as a "chemical frost".

Consider a desiccant treatment when the beans are fully mature. Spraying too early risks yield loss and quality discounts, while applying too late may result in seed rot or shattering before harvest. For indeterminate (Grp 4) varieties, that's basically after 65% of the pods have turned color. For determinate (Grp 5, 6, 7) that's when the beans are fully developed and ½ of the leaves have dropped. Read the desiccant label for details. Check green pods to be sure that the membrane holding the seed has dried up and the bean is loose. Spraying before seeds are mature can result in shriveled and/or green beans in the hopper, with elevator deducts or even rejection of the entire load.

Some products, such as paraquat formulations, have a preharvest interval of up to 15 days, so timeliness can be critical to avoid shattering, particularly early in the season. Weather has a great effect on the speed and effectiveness of soybean harvest aids. Some will have full effects in 10 days of hot and sunny weather, but take 3 weeks or more to work when it gets cool or rainy, so don't wait until the weather turns cool or wet before applying if needed.

There are only a few products listed in our IPM Guide for soybean harvest aids – Aim, paraquat (Gramoxone Inteon 2, Firestorm 3, etc.) various glyphosate formulations, and sodium chlorate. It is important to use the right adjuvant listed on the label – i.e. crop oil with Aim, surfactants with paraquat, etc.

From tests that have been conducted in Alabama and neighboring states, the most consistent treatment for green soybeans with a broad range of weeds has been 0.25 lb/A of paraquat (example: Gramoxone Inteon 2 @ 1 pt/A or 10.7 fl. oz/A of a 3 lb/gal formulation) plus sodium chlorate @ 3 lb/A (1/2 gal/A of a 6 lb/gal formulation). The paraquat gives quick drydown of the leaves, while the sodium chlorate helps pull moisture out from thicker stems.

Aim @ 1.4 fl oz/A + crop oil was generally good on most broadleaves, particularly morninglories but ***not on sicklepod***, but was very inconsistent on soybean leaves and grasses. One advantage is the short pre-harvest interval – 3 days.

Glyphosate will do well on most mature weeds, esp. grasses, but is slow and will do little on Roundup Ready soybean leaves. Tank-mixing Aim with Roundup WeatherMax resulted in antagonism, or less effect than using either one alone.

Sodium chlorate has been around a long time. It is fairly slow to act, weak on grasses, and very dependent on warm, dry weather for good effect when used by itself. It eventually did well on soybean leaves and stalks in most of our trials.

Harvest aids need to be applied in plenty of water – usually 15 -20 gpa or more with ground equipment. Since most are contact materials, there needs to be complete coverage down through the canopy onto all green surfaces. Flat fan (herbicide) tips should give the most effective coverage.

Be sure and check individual product labels for all the details.

Peanut Harvest Soon To Begin: A few of our peanuts were planted early. However, the majority of the crop was planted later than normal. Therefore most of our crop will be harvested late.

Peanut Hull Scrape Clinic: As in years past I will work with the Elberta Coop in Hull Scraping of peanuts and helping growers to determine the optimum maturity on their peanuts.

Peanut Maturity Guide by Variety: These days to maturity are to be used as just a helpful guide. So use this only as a guide. Base your decision on maturity of the peanut kernel and your vine condition not the calendar.

Medium Maturing Varieties				Late Maturing	
Georgia Green	135 days	Florida 07	140 days	York	150 days
Georgia 03L	135	AP-3	140	C99-R	155
AT 0385RO	135			Ga 02C	155 plus
McCloud	135			Ga 01R	155
Georgia 06G	135				
AP-4	135				
Ga Greener	135				
AT 215	125-130				

Again, I hope this information has been helpful to you.

Sincerely,

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ALABAMA COOPERATIVE Extension SYSTEM

Alabama A&M and Auburn Universities

Richard Petcher
Regional Extension Agent
Agronomic Crops

Peanut Planting Record-Harvest Guide

Date planted _____ Days of age _____

		120 Days		**130 Days**		**135 Days**	
April	7	August	5	August	15	August	20
April	10	August	8	August	18	August	23
April	13	August	11	August	21	August	26
April	16	August	14	August	24	August	29
April	19	August	17	August	27	September	2
April	22	August	20	August	30	September	5
April	25	August	23	September	2	September	7
April	28	August	26	September	5	September	10
May	1	August	29	September	8	September	13
May	4	September	1	September	11	September	16
May	7	September	4	September	14	September	19
May	10	September	7	September	17	September	22
May	13	September	10	September	20	September	25
May	16	September	13	September	23	September	28
May	19	September	16	September	26	October	1
May	22	September	19	September	29	October	4
May	25	September	22	October	2	October	6
May	28	September	25	October	5	October	10
May	31	September	28	October	8	October	13
June	3	October	1	October	11	October	17
June	6	October	4	October	14	October	19
June	9	October	7	October	17	October	22
June	12	October	10	October	20	October	25
June	15	October	13	October	23	October	28
June	18	October	16	October	26	October	31
June	21	October	19	October	29	November	4