

# TIMELY INFORMATION

## Agriculture & Natural Resources

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### AU PEST ALERT: VEGETABLE insect pest activity in Alabama

Report developed by Dr. Ayanava Majumdar (Ext. Entomologist) & ACES IPM team members

**ATTN. VEGETABLE PRODUCERS:** You can now listen to audio version of AU insect advisories; please call 1-800-446-0375 and choose option 2.

**Numbers below show insect counts (units = number per trap per week) from recent as well as all the previous counts, up to 7 August 2009. Most recent insect numbers appear highlighted in the table below.**

County>>	North AL				Central AL				Southwest AL		Southeast AL	
	Limestone	Trend	Cullman	Trend	Chilton	Trend	Clay	Trend	Mobile	Trend	Houston	Trend
Crop insect pest	Population tracker		Population tracker		Population tracker		Population tracker		Population tracker		Population tracker	
Beet armyworm	2>>2>>3	+	3>>7>>5	+	2>>2	-	0>>1>>2	-	NA>>18>>20	+	4>>39>>39	++
Fall armyworm	2>>3>>4	+	3>>6>>19	++	2>>2	-	2>>2>>30	-	13>>26>>6	-	5>>8>>7	+
Southern armyworm	NA		NA		NA		NA>>0		3>>6>>2	+	NA	
Cabbage looper	NA		NA		NA		2>>0>>2	-	2>>6	+	NA	
Soybean looper	NA		NA		NA		NA		16>>2>>10	+	NA	
Corn earworm	0>>1>>5	+	5>>1>>9	+	13>>7	-	1>>2>>0	+	2>>7>>1	-	1>>2>>7	+
Tobacco budworm	0>>0>>0	-	0>>2>>0	-	2>>2	-	1>>1>>1		NA>>2>>1	-	0>>1>>4	+
Black cutworm	0>>0>>1	-	1>>4>>0	-	0>>1	-	3>>2>>2	-	4>>0>>3	-	0>>1>>5	+
European corn borer	0>>0>>0	-	0>>0>>0	-	0>>0	-	0>>0>>0	-	0>>0>>0	-	0	
Corn rootworm	4>>0>>0	-	0>>10>>24*	+	6>>17	++	11>>6>>5***	++	NA		NA	
Stink bug	0>>0>>0	-	0>>0	-	0>>0	-	NA		0>>0>>0	-	NA	
Tomato pinworm	NA		0		NA		0		NA		NA	
Diamondback moth	NA		1		NA		0		NA		NA	

+ increasing pest pressure ++pest warning (begin scouting crop to determine actual injury) - declining population NA = Not available

\*all specimens were the southern CRW

\*\*4 southern CRW + 2 western CRW \*\*\*2 southern + 3 western CRW

Comments on vegetable insect pest population trends:

- Remember that population trends mentioned herein cannot be applied to the above insect species in all crops. The abundance and activity of reported here are reliable in case of peanuts. Insect detection in traps does not mean it is time to apply insecticides. Use economic thresholds for decision making.
- Fall armyworm and beet armyworm continue to challenge crop producers, especially growers in southern corners of the state. Moth numbers beyond 10 moths per trap per week should trigger intense scouting of crops for caterpillars because they increase in size rapidly and quickly complete their generations. High armyworm counts in Mobile and Houston counties could be indicating the presences of overlapping generations. Keep scouting your high value crops for detecting caterpillar feeding activity.
- Southern armyworm moth activity could not be detected in high numbers across the state with wing pheromone traps.
- While most insect species show a decreasing abundance of moths in northern counties of Alabama, corn earworm and tobacco budworm moths did not show any pattern to their activity and the populations appear to be consistent over the past several weeks. As host crops such as corn get harvested, corn earworms activity could rise in peanuts.
- Due to non-availability of tomato pinworm and diamondback moth lures, those insects could not be monitored in a consistent manner.
- Stink bug traps appear to have problems with design which has resulted in loss of lures and capture of beneficial pollinators. There are stink bugs present in peanut but crop injury at this point will be negligible.

- Corn rootworm populations are increasing rapidly in some northern vegetable production areas and this could be due to harvest of some crops like corn. Beetles will be migrating to other host and we may continue to see a spike in beetle activity. Interestingly, last week's trap catches had western corn rootworm and southern corn rootworm beetles unlike previous counts.

*For more information, please visit [https://sites.aces.edu/group/commhort/vegetable/Vegetable/alabama\\_IPM\\_trap\\_network.aspx](https://sites.aces.edu/group/commhort/vegetable/Vegetable/alabama_IPM_trap_network.aspx). Please provide us feedback regarding how you use this information and an approximate savings in insecticide you have made by incorporating this monitoring information into your scouting program on your. Please email [azm0024@auburn.edu](mailto:azm0024@auburn.edu), call 2513318416 or take the Internet survey available on the above website for submitting your comments. Thank you.*