

TIMELY INFORMATION

Agriculture & Natural Resources

July 17, 2009

AU PEST ALERT: Insect counts from IPM pheromone traps in VEGETABLES Report developed by Dr. Ayanava Majumdar (Ext. Entomologist) & ACES IPM team members

Numbers indicate insect counts during the past two weeks (up to 10 July 2009).

County>>	North AL		Central AL				South AL			
	Limestone		Chilton		Clay		Houston		Mobile	
	Recent number	Trend	Recent number	Trend	Recent number	Trend	Recent number	Trend	Recent number	Trend
Beet armyworm (BAW)	4		3		0		9		NA	
Black cutworm (BCW)	0		0		5		0		8	
Corn earworm (CEW)	0		26	++	2		1		5	
Tobacco budworm (TBW)	0		3		1		NA		NA	
Fall armyworm (FAW)	4		3		4		10	+	26	++
Southern armyworm (SAW)	NA		NA		NA		NA		7	
Cabbage looper (CL)	NA		NA		3		NA		3	
Soybean looper (SL)	NA		NA		NA		NA		12	
Corn rootworm (CRW)	0		11		22	++	0		NA	

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

Comments on vegetable insect pest population trends:

- Population trends, if indicated in the table, have been estimated by comparing insect counts from at least two consecutive observations. **Remember that insect detection with traps does not mean that it is time to treat!** Insect species, crop field, irrigation/dryland conditions, plant growth, etc. should be taken into account before a treatment decision is made. Consult a crop advisor/Extension Agent before making expensive treatment decisions and protect environment.
- BAW moth activity is higher in southern AL than central/northern areas (as expected). I suspect the first generation of BAW is over in southern counties, based on high BAW captures (>39 moths) from peanut fields in the same trapping period (not reported here, but see Alabama peanut IPM monitoring report).
- BCW is a sporadic pest and a common cutworm in southern states; watch for high moth numbers by sweep-netting in the weedy borders along with the main crop.
- CEW populations increased in June and were higher than TBW populations. In July, CEW and TBW populations are expected to be at par. **Early caterpillars of TBW and CEW look very similar; so use of pheromone traps can help you to automatically identify the species present and to act accordingly.**
- FAW numbers are increasing in southern counties, so keep a close watch for armyworms in fields with a history of this insect. FAW has a 30 d lifecycle in summer with female moths capable of laying over 1,500 eggs in scattered masses under leaves...so populations reach high damaging levels very quickly.
- Typically, soybean and cabbage loopers are late season insect pests that may become problem after population buildup few generations, especially in hot dry conditions. At present, soybean looper moth activity in vegetable crops is higher than cabbage looper activity (reverse is true in peanut fields!).
- Although the corn rootworm pheromone trap is designed to detect several species, southern CRW was the prevalent species in all AL collections. CRW numbers were detected at very high levels in northern AL compared to numbers in southern AL vegetable fields.

For more information, please visit 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, call 2513318416 or take the Internet survey available on the above website for submitting your comments. Thank you.

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