

TIMELY INFORMATION

Agriculture & Natural Resources

July 31, 2009

SPECIAL REPORT: TRENDS IN ARMYWORM ACTIVITY
By Dr. Ayanava Majumdar, Ext. Entomologist & IPM team members,
Alabama Cooperative Extension System



Beet armyworm (BAW)

Fall armyworm (FAW)

Southern armyworm (SAW)

Many inquiries about armyworms have come to our offices in recent weeks. We have been tracking armyworm populations across Alabama using insect pheromone traps in/around peanut and vegetable fields, and below is a summary of findings related to various armyworm populations:

NORTHERN ALABAMA, CROPS: VEGETABLES

Limestone County traps.....

BAW: 4 (June) >> 4 (early July) >> **5 (late July)**

FAW: 4 (June) >> 6 (early July) >> **7 (late July)**

Cullman County traps.....

BAW: 5 (June) >> **14 (mid July)**

FAW: 7 (June) >> **13 (mid July)**

CENTRAL ALABAMA, CROPS: PEANUTS & VEGETABLES

Autauga/Elmore traps (peanuts).....
BAW: 1 (early July) >> **12 (late July)**
FAW: 3 (early July) >> **45 (late July)**
SAW: 0 (early July) >> **9 (late July)**

Chilton County traps (vegetables).....
BAW: 3 (June) >> **3 (late July)**
FAW: 3 (June) >> **4 (late July)**

Clay County traps (vegetables).....
BAW: 0 (June) >> **1 (late July)**
FAW: 4 (June) >> **4 (late July)**

SOUTHWEST ALABAMA, CROP: PEANUTS

Baldwin County traps.....
Beet armyworm (BAW): 35 (June) >> 39 (early July) >> **58 (late July)**
Fall armyworm (FAW): 2 (June) >> 25 (early July) >> **66 (late July)**
Southern armyworm (SAW): 2 (June) >> 9 (early July) >> **11 (late July)**

Mobile County traps.....
BAW: **35 (late July)**
FAW: 26 (early July) >> **52 (late July)**
SAW: 7 (early July) >> **13 (late July)**

Washington County traps.....
BAW: 40 (late July)
FAW: 8 (late July)
SAW: 0 (late July)

SOUTHEASTERN ALABAMA, CROPS: PEANUTS & VEGETABLES

Henry County traps (peanuts).....
BAW: 23 moths (June) >> 15 (early July) >> **49 (late July)**
FAW: 1 (June) >> **19 (late July)**
SAW: 1 (June) >> no observations due to storm damage

Houston County traps (vegetables).....
BAW: 9 (June) >> **77 (early July)**
FAW: 10 (June) >> **16 (early July)**

BASED ON ABOVE DATA, here are some trends for armyworm populations in Alabama:

1. The farther north you go in Alabama, the lesser are the moth numbers indicating prolonged emergence. Armyworm populations are affected by the cropping system. Population increases have been sharp in peanut fields. Moth numbers greater than 15 in IPM traps could indicate start of significant egg-laying activity when crop scouting may reveal abundance of early instars (small caterpillars).
2. In southwest and southeast Alabama, beet armyworms were detected in high numbers in June and the populations have remained same or increased in July. The BAW attack was sudden and there probably are multiple generations present in field right now causing sustained high moth numbers in pheromone traps.
3. Fall armyworm populations are now increasing along the I-10 corridor and I will not be surprised if this insect surpasses beet armyworm populations in a few weeks, especially in southwestern region.
4. We had not reached action threshold in most peanut fields till the week of August 19th (<4 larvae per foot row). However, please continue to monitor the pest situation in your fields especially if you have a history of armyworm infestations because populations are on a rapid rise.

IPM Insect Monitoring Team: Michael Reeves, Lloyd Chapman, Gary Gray, William East, Neil Kelly, James Miles, Ayanava Majumdar, Leonard Kuykendall, Tim Reed, Kathy Flanders

Please provide us feedback as to how you use AU Pest Alert information and impact of this program on your farm by filling out the on-line survey on the https://sites.aces.edu/group/commhort/vegetable/Vegetable/alabama_IPM_trap_network.aspx or emailing azm0024@auburn.edu. Thank you for your feedback.