

# TIMELY INFORMATION

## Agriculture & Natural Resources

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### THE ALABAMA IPM INSECT PHEROMONE TRAP NETWORK IS NOW ACTIVE

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With grants from the Extension Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Coordination Program and the Southeastern Peanut Research Initiative, a new outreach project that can greatly benefit a broad range of Alabama crop producers has been initiated recently. The main goal of this project involves the establishment of a network of IPM insect pheromone traps (“IPM grid”) across the state to monitor 12 critical insect pests of field crops and vegetables. A 2009 paper-based survey of Alabama vegetable and peanut producers indicated lack of understanding and very low adoption rates of pheromone-based insect monitoring systems, and the findings were a major motivation for ACES in starting this unique project. Insect pheromone traps

can compliment crop scouting that farmers and crop advisors have to undertake in order to make treatment decisions based on the principles of IPM. In the long-term, this project will also lead to identification of key producers in Alabama who can assist ACES in the diffusion of technology via on-site IPM Scout Schools and Field Days.

Insect pheromones are gender- and species-specific scents that are released in minute quantities from specialized glands on insect body in order to elicit a response from other members of the same species. The commercially available insect pheromone traps are variously shaped and include a synthetic lure; the overall technology has become very affordable in recent years. The first-year project will monitor insects like stink bugs, beetles, rootworms, armyworms, cutworms, corn borers, and loopers along the I-65 (north-south) corridor and I-10 (east-west) corridor. As more pheromones become available, the project will expand to monitoring other insect pests. At present, the statewide insect trapping network involves 11 Extension personnel from Agronomy (Brandon Dillard, Leonard Kuykendall, Richard Petcher, William Birdsong, and Ayanava Majumdar) and Commercial Horticulture (Lloyd Chapman, William East, Jr., Gary Gray, Neil Kelly, Michael Reeves, and James Miles) Program Teams. Additional personnel may get involved with an expanded version of this program in coming years. All IPM grid team members have been individually trained in insect trapping procedures and will be servicing traps at two week intervals. For benefiting crop producers as well as Extension and research personnel, all information will be posted on two parallel websites



(<https://sites.aces.edu/group/commhort/vegetable/default.aspx> and <https://sites.aces.edu/group/crops/peanut/default.aspx>) managed by Ayanava Majumdar; this website will constantly evolve as new data becomes available and is hoped to be moved to a more prominent location in order to increase its visibility. Please keep checking the IPM grid website periodically to stay updated about insect pest activity in your area and help ACES to promote this program among crop producers who can directly benefit from this project.

For assistance related to insect monitoring program or to become a member of IPM grid, please contact Ayanava Majumdar, cell phone: 251-331-8416, linc# 7\*333, e-mail: [azm0024@auburn.edu](mailto:azm0024@auburn.edu).