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PEANUT INSECTICIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2009

A. Majumdar and J. R. Weeks

Here are some updates about the 2009 peanut insecticide recommendations that you should be aware about. You can also refer to the new insecticidal recommendations in the revised Peanut IPM Guide (**2009 Alabama Pest Management Handbook Volume 1**) that is now available with Cooperative Extension.

New recommendations:

- Methoxyfenozide (Intrepid 2F, Dow AgroSciences) has been included in the beet armyworm (Fig. 1) control recommendations. Application rate = 6-10 fl oz per acre. Pre-harvest interval = 7 days. Maximum use rate in a year = 64 fl oz. Economic threshold (ET) = 4 or more armyworms per foot of row.

Figure 1. Larva of the beet armyworm (image source: Frank Peairs, Colorado State University, www.insectimages.org)

- Zeta-cypermethrin (Mustang Max EC, FMC Products) has been included for control of corn earworms, cutworms, grasshoppers, leafhoppers, rednecked peanut worms, velvetbean caterpillars, and green cloverworms (all major lepidopteran insect pests). Application rate = 3.2-4.0 fl oz per acre. Pre-harvest interval = 7 days. Maximum use rate in a year = 24 fl oz. ET for caterpillars = 4 or more insects per foot of row. ET for sucking insects = hopper burn on 20% or more plants.

- Tobacco budworm *(Heliothis virescens)* now has separate insecticide recommendations from that of corn earworm *(Heliothis zea)*(Fig. 2). These two insects seem to appear as separate localized populations in peanut fields, but mixed populations could also occur. Populations can be separated by examining the 8th abdominal segment of the caterpillars and locating numerous spines on tubercles or mounds in case of the tobacco budworm (note: tubercles bear bristles in caterpillars). This may be seen with a powerful hand-lens in field or by using a dissection microscope in the laboratory. There are also some

differences in mouthpart structure between the two species but this would require expert assistance. Besides indoxacarb (a sodium channel blocker) and methomyl (a nerve enzyme disruptor), spinosad or Tracer 4SC (Dow AgroSciences) is an excellent product for tobacco budworm control. Application rate = 1.5-3.0 fl oz. Pre-harvest interval = 3. Maximum use rate per year = 9 fl oz. ET for caterpillars = 4 or more insects per foot of row.

Figure 2. Larva of the tobacco budworm (image source: R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company Slide Set, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, Bugwood.org)

Continuing insect management challenges in peanuts:

- Insects with only one insecticide recommendation: burrower bugs, lesser cornstalk borer, southern corn rootworm, and wireworms. Economic threshold levels for these insects are not established in peanut, but you can rely on your experience to connect infestation levels with observed damage.

- Continue to use a variety of cultural control tactics for insect pest management, whenever they are available. Remember that the choice of cultivar is the first line of defense for producers.

- Intensify your scouting efforts for soil pests and use broad-spectrum insecticides for control. A new factsheet related to peanut soil pests and scouting methods are under development to assist you in more effective scouting this season.

- For more assistance related to insect scouting: Dr. Ayanava Majumdar, Extension Entomologist, cell phone: 251-331-8416, linc# 7*333, e-mail: azm0024@auburn.edu.