

# AgFax: Southeast Cotton

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Here is this week's issue of *AgFax: Southeast Cotton*, sponsored by Nichino America, maker of *ET*<sup>TM</sup> cotton herbicide/defoliant and *Artisan*<sup>TM</sup> peanut fungicide.

## OVERVIEW

Eggs and worms are turning up on a wider basis and are being found as far north as Florence, S.C. This is generally seen as a bollworm/corn earworm flight. No one reported an overwhelming amount of pressure.

Plantbugs and stinkbugs continue to be treated. Spider mites are flaring in isolated locations in north Alabama. Aphids have pretty much passed from the scene.

Pivots have cranked up more widely this week after 10-14 days of dry weather in some areas. But scattered showers continue to develop during most afternoons, and a few locations picked up 1-2" of rain over the last week.

These reports were made Thursday and Friday.

## CROP REPORTS

**Ron Smith, Alabama Extension Entomologist (hot line, 800-458-3738):** "Cotton looks pretty good where it wasn't planted late or drowned out. It's fruiting up well and seems to have decent yield potential.

"We're finding a few more plantbugs every week. There aren't enough in every field to trigger treatments, but they are steadily increasing in some locations. Plus, we're picking up a lot of immature clouded plantbugs and continue to see more stinkbugs, both browns and greens.

"Some worm pressure is evident. It's not statewide, but they definitely are in certain fields. It looks like the bollworm flight is finally coming out of corn, and we're finding eggs and worms that are just a few hours old. This is mainly in central and south Alabama. Again, they're not in every field, but we are turning up economic numbers.

"I saw some this week in the Wiregrass that already had escaped on Bt cotton where they were on little bolls under bloom tags, which is typi-

cally what happens. Aphids are gone now in several locations where they had been building."

**Barry L. Freeman, Extension Entomologist, Belle Mina, Ala.:** "We're still cleaning up plantbugs. They're not terrible, but there certainly are enough out there in some places to spray. We're also dealing with spider mites in some locations, and they're tough in spots.

"The fungus has been verified, and it's beginning to control our aphid populations. An occasional moth and a few eggs are evident in our fields, but we're not into significant activity quite yet."

**Wes Briggs, Briggs Crop Services, Inc., Bainbridge, Ga.:** "We're irrigating cotton now. We started on the sandy land and are beginning to run pivots on stiffer dirt. The drier weather gave us a break to finish cleaning up fields. We had to go with some pretty hot stuff, including Cobra and MSMA, to get things under control.

"We're in a corn earworm and fall armyworm flight now in Bt cotton,

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and we're starting to do oversprays. Eggs are running in the 20-40% range. So far, we've had to spray very little cotton for tobacco budworms.

"Stinkbugs are fairly light, and we're picking those up with our worm treatments. Most everybody is going with a pyrethroid in the Bt cotton and tankmixing a little Orthene, Bidrin or methyl for stinkbugs. Up to now, this is about the lightest insect pressure I've seen.

"We've got an above average crop if we can just hold onto it. With all this rain, we've put out a tremendous amount of Pix, generally in the 40-50 oz/acre range. That's almost unheard of, but the crop has needed every drop of it."

**Bobby Boutwell, Royster-Clark Farmmarket, Jay, Fla.:** "We've got little to no insect pressure in cotton. Some Pix is going out. A lot of nematode problems are now showing up with the wet weather. You can see unevenness across fields where soils stayed wet.

"We've caught a number of 2" showers, but this area missed the heavy rains that seem to have hung over Baldwin County (Alabama) for several weeks. I was on a field tour today (Thursday), and an Alabama farmer said there actually were some people planting cotton this week near him."

**Phillip Roberts, Extension Entomologist, Tifton, Ga. (hotline, 800-851-2847):** "We're spraying worms a little more this week. It's mainly a lot of corn earworms, but other species are in the mix. More Southern green stinkbugs than brown stinkbugs are present. Overall, we still have a good looking crop, and up to now we don't have that much money in it for insect control or some other

things, like irrigation. We've got irrigated corn that's only been watered once and some dryland corn that would have done just as good as the pivot corn if it had had more fertilizer."

(To download Roberts's full insect report for this week, go to: [agfax.com/updates/ga/cottonpest7.pdf](http://agfax.com/updates/ga/cottonpest7.pdf).)

**Mitchell Roof, Extension Entomologist, Florence, S.C. (hotline, 877-629-1474):** "We're finding a few more bollworm eggs in the southern part of the state. Fran Arnette, who heads up scouting for me, says she's finding a considerable number of eggs in the Florence area. Generally, we aren't seeing much activity yet above the lakes. I was in Dillon County yesterday (Thursday) and found very little to indicate there's a moth flight underway.

"Eggs here at Florence are running up to 30 per 100, so there is a little more laying now than there was early in the week. By Monday or Tuesday we should see an increase above the lakes.

"We're starting to spray some stinkbugs in the southern part of the state. One farmer I visited yesterday was putting out Pix and added Centric. Browns seem to be the most prevalent stinkbug right now, but I also saw some greens. One consultant in the southern part of the state emailed me today that they were treating stinkbugs and damage ranged from 15-20%, with mostly brown stinkbugs present. Aphids are pretty well crashing."

**Tom Cary, Worth County Extension Coordinator, Sylvester, Ga.:** "Layby herbicide applications are underway, and we're still putting Pix on the DPL 555. Also, we're treating a few worms and stinkbugs.

We haven't had what I would consider to be any kind of big moth flight. Worms are sporadic, just here and there. With stinkbugs we're seeing a lot of browns this time.

"Generally, we've been in pretty good shape in terms of moisture, but some places have been getting dry. Scattered thunderstorms are about all we're getting right now. It's been dry enough now that some cotton and peanuts are being irrigated. The pivots started running last week, and that's the first time this year."

## Moth Trap Catches

From Ron Weeks  
Extension Entomologist  
Wiregrass REC, Headland, Ala.

Insect	7/3-10*	7/11-15*
LCSB	5.4	7.0
FA	0.4	1.2
BA	1.4	0.6
CE	7.1	6.0
TBW	28.6	5.0

\* Average number per night. LCSB, lesser cornstalk borer; FA, fall armyworm; BA, beet armyworm; CE, corn earworm; TBW, tobacco budworm.