

AgFax

Southeast Cotton

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Owen Taylor, Editor
owen@agfax.com ■ 888-327-6329

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Here is this week's *AgFax: Southeast Cotton*, sponsored by **FMC Corporation**, maker of **Carbine** insecticide. To subscribe to *AgFax* or *PeanutFax*, please go to our subscription page at agfax.com/subs.

OVERVIEW

The southern half of our coverage area remains mostly dry. Showers last week brought a bit of relief to some locations but not enough rain fell, overall, to break a long, dry cycle.

Thrips are still being treated in some areas. No other significant pest problems are being reported.

CROP REPORTS

Jeremy Greene, Clemson University Cotton Entomologist, Blacksville, S.C.: "Thrips applications are going out. We've

had scattered showers over the last week. The southern part of the state really needed rain, and what we received seems to have helped. A lot of the cotton looks better, and it's outgrown some of the thrips damage. A good deal of acreage was sprayed for thrips with that Roundup application at the fourth and fifth leaf stage."

Steve M. Brown, Extension Cotton Agronomist, Tifton, Ga.: "The crop has progressed a good bit in the last two weeks. It looks like cotton now. We are dry but aren't suffering terribly yet. However, a broad rain would greatly benefit the crop. Where cotton is irrigated, some has perked up and looks good and is starting to square. We don't normally water a lot of pre-bloom cotton, but this year it's probably warranted on some fields."

David Butcher, NC Ag Service, Inc., Pantego, N.C.: "Due to this unusually cool spring, cotton is a little further behind than we would like to see it. Overall, it's running about two weeks behind what we should expect. There's very little fruiting. Just a few fields are beginning to square at all. During May we had a lot of nights in the 50s and low 60s, with daytime highs in the 70s, and cotton just sat there. There's a lot of thrips pressure. Wheat is starting to dry down. If cotton is very small, it can't outgrow the pressure. We've mostly been treating with Orthene."

William Birdsong, Extension Agronomist-Row Crops, Headland, Ala.: "It's extremely dry. Some farmers are applying sidedress N to cotton. Others are waiting for when or if rain comes. In certain cases, farmers are sidedressing their

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oldest cotton but will delay that on the rest of their acreage until rain develops. Most of our Roundup Ready cotton has received its over-the-top applications.

“A lot of our crop is still in a holding pattern. One farmer with 2,000 acres is waiting for a rain so that 1,200 acres of that will emerge. Our rainfall accumulation was 44% deficient for the year at the end of May, so by now we probably have received only 50% of our normal total for the year. And the rainfall pattern this year has been extreme – it’s either been in buckets or nothing. It was very dry in April, but in the first week of May we received five to seven inches. But there’s really been nothing since then.”

Mike Howell, Extension Area Agronomist, Collins, Miss.: “Cotton in south Mississippi is starting to grow. Most areas have been getting some showers. A small amount of acreage still needs to be planted. We found some more false chinch bugs Wednesday, and about 500 acres will have to be sprayed in Jackson County. Some cotton has started to square, and we’ve got plants at up to seven and eight nodes.”

Tim Kelly, Southeastern Crop Consulting, Inc., Barney, Ga.: “We are still waiting on a rain to bring up cotton and peanuts in some areas that I work, but I would only estimate that to be about 10% of what I am checking. The other 90% just needs a rain to keep it going. We are dry, dry, dry. Roundup sprays are going out on cotton. There’s some light egg pressure but no worm sprays yet. Pix or Stance are being applied where we have irrigation or where we were fortunate enough to catch a rain.”

Edward Kane, Ind. Crop Consultant, Robertsdale, Ala.: “Last Friday, parts of our area received from a half-inch to two inches of rain, but we still have dry pockets and remain behind on our rainfall for the year. A lot of Roundup has gone out over the top, and we’re starting to sidedress early fields. A little Pix has been applied on a very minor part of our acreage, mainly spots that have picked up enough moisture for cotton to start adding stalk a little too fast. We’ve had minor thrips, nothing like we’re hearing about in other areas. Treatments have mainly been preventive.”

Keith Edmisten, North Carolina Extension Cotton Specialist: “The crop is a little delayed due to cool weather and thrips damage, and I’ve received several calls from folks who are concerned. But, in general, we have good stands and the potential to make a decent crop if the weather shifts into a more normal pattern. The thing to keep in mind at this point is that it’s really too early to say which way cotton will go in 2006. We seldom lose or make a crop in May and June. That is more likely to happen in July and August.”

Ames Herbert, Virginia Extension Entomologist (srpmc.org/virginia): “As predicted, the sticky card catch increased last week but may be on the down side now. The large drop

in this week’s count was due in large part to six-tenths of an inch of rain last Friday. I think the next count will be up, but most likely not as high as it was last week. We are still finding immatures in cotton, but the crop is reaching the five-leaf stage in many fields. We hope to see the thrips problem begin to phase out by the end of next week.”

David L. Wright, Florida Extension Agronomist, Quincy, Fla.: “A little cotton is still being planted. Two or three growers told me that they’re basically down to planting refuge acres. Of the cotton I’ve seen, it’s pretty obvious that herbicides haven’t been nearly as effective as they would have been if we had received enough rain to activate them right after application. I’m seeing morningglory, nutsedge and other weeds coming up. Under irrigation, we have some pretty good fields, with cotton eight to ten inches tall and moving toward layby herbicide applications.”

Jack Bacheiler, North Carolina Extension Cotton Entomologist: “Probably a good 40% or more of our cotton has moved to or beyond the five true leaf stage and has adequate to excessive moisture levels. Most of this cotton should be safe from further thrips damage. Also, much of our mid-May or later planted cotton has experienced minimal thrips damage, provided a seed treatment or at least a low rate of Temik was used. Finally, this past week’s cooler, rainy weather has probably lowered, though certainly not eliminated, the potential for spider mite damage in the coming days or weeks. We are still a few weeks away from the onset of significant square production and the potential for pre-bloom plant bug damage.”

TRAP REPORT

Wiregrass REC, Headland, Ala., Pheromone Trap Report

Ron Weeks, Extension Entomologist

As of June 8: Average number of moths per night

CEW	TBW	FAW	BAW	LCSB
18.5	11.4	0	0.85	9.2

CEW: corn earworm, TBW: tobacco budworm, FAW: fall armyworm, BAW: beet armyworm, LCSB: lesser cornstalk borer.

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