

# AgFax: Midsouth Cotton

## Overview:

Much of the region needs a rain. Several of our contacts this week talked about blooms too close to the top for this time of the year and cases of imminent cutout in drought-stressed fields. Some foliar treatments are being made to keep the crop going.

Several people said that the crop in their area is running 7 or more days ahead of what they consider normal.

The moth flight expected this week has been relatively light so far.

## Insect Summary:

**Blake Layton, Mississippi Extension Entomologist:** "We're seeing a light to moderate egg lay in the south. Aphids are crashing in most areas. We're seeing some beet armyworms, but they aren't a problem yet. We need to be alert for fall armyworms, too. Stinkbugs need to be a focus in the next few weeks. We had a mild winter, and in areas with eradication and Bt cotton there aren't as many treatments to pick up stinkbugs as the corn matures."

**Ralph Bagwell, Louisiana Extension Entomologist, Winnsboro, La.:** "We've got a little of everything but not a lot of anything. There's a wide bollworm flight, but it's not heavy. A

few fields have been sprayed. We've got a mix of mites, whitefly, Southern armyworm, a few yellowstriped armyworms, some saltmarsh caterpillars. Most are in low numbers. A few plant bugs are around, and weevils are a little easier to find but still low."

**Gus Lorenz, Arkansas IPM Coordinator:** "Worms are down pretty much all over. A few fields have been treated, mainly for bollworms. Maybe the flight is dragging. Mites are taking off, especially in Lonoke and Jefferson Counties. Some treatments are being made and more will follow. Main treatments are Zephyr stripped along edges and Kelthane. In soybeans we're getting a complex of fall and yellowstriped armyworms and garden webworms, especially in late fields. We're finding them in river valleys and in the east central and southeast parts of the state. They've defoliated small plants in spots."

**Steve Schutz, Ind. Consultant, Coushatta, La.:** "We're spraying some older cotton for bollworms. We had places on July 3 with 18% one-day worms in pink blooms. We waited to see if there was any effect from the Bt, and it worked on about half and we're treating the other half now. Moth activity has picked up. We're not finding

a lot of eggs, which means they could be harder to detect. My daughter, Sarah, is finding fresh-hatched worms on white blooms. I just called the eradication folks because I think I found a boll weevil egg lay."

**Victor Roth, Roth Farm Service, Malden, Mo.:** "Aphids are going by the wayside, either controlled with treatments or taken out by beneficials. We made treatments early in the week but called off later treatments because beneficials caught up in at least part of the cotton. We've treated a few plant bugs. Overwintering weevils have been a big deal, and we're trying to get them under control. We've treated everything at least once, some twice and are making a third treatment on part of that. We would have treated a second time by now on more acreage, but weather delayed us. This is unusual for our growers. We always have some problem fields, but infestations are more spread out this year."

**Trent LaMastus, Ind. Consultant, Cleveland, Miss.:** "We have a modest number of eggs but expect it to pick up by Monday. Agdia kits are showing 70-80% budworms in most cases. We're seeing a lot of bollworm moths. Worms are spotty. We're find-

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ing scattered pockets in Humphreys County and some in LeFlore County. Karate and Curacron tank mixes are going out, and we'll be using Tracer, too. We've been finding beet armyworms down in squares for 2 weeks. Beneficials have been holding them down, but we're finding a few hits now. We're fighting plant bugs in spots. Spider mites are giving us problems in some spots, and we're treating with Capture. Mites are coming in and building earlier this year. We treated mites as early as 3 weeks ago. We haven't had much rain to speak of. Mites are worst in some lush, irrigated cotton."

**John "Kim" Kimbrough, Consultant, Pro-Tech-Ag, Lexington, Miss.:** "Fungus has taken out most aphids. We are picking up single beet armyworms and found one hit Thursday, so that's now on our radar screen. We're picking up fall and beet armyworms in traps. We're finding some eggs but not many worms yet. We haven't found enough eggs yet to justify running a kit. Eggs we found Thursday were mostly on bloom tags, which is typical of bollworms. The moths we're seeing are bollworms."

**Chuck Farr, Mid-South Ag Consultants, Crawfordsville, Ark.:** "Aphids have been our main focus. We've sent numerous samples for fungus analysis, and they have been less than 8% infection. One last week had 20% infection and was down to 12% this week. We hope the fungus moves in before we have to treat for aphids again. We've used Furadan everywhere we could and switched to Provado near town and homes. Some isolated fields have been treated for worms this week. Pyrethroids alone have done a good job, and a couple of fields have been treated with pyrethroids plus Tracer where fields had larger populations of budworms. Fields with worm pressure were also where we used Provado. Furadan went out at the same time that moths were in the fields, and we took out the moths, so no worm pressure. Weevils remain a problem, and pyre-

throids are being used. Plant bugs are still a problem and Vydate at 1:12 or Bidrin 1:16 have been used to also get weevil control. Mites have emerged during our dry spell on borders. Capture has been used so far."

**Roger Carter, Agricultural Management Services, Clayton, La.:** "Southern armyworms are being observed in most cotton fields, but we've only treated about 10 acres so far. Plant bugs are still persistent in cotton adjoining corn or WRP or CRP land. Bidrin is being used for plant bugs where stink bugs may be a problem and Orthene is the choice where whiteflies are a problem. Bollworm egg counts are increasing to 30-40% in some fields, with most averaging 15%. However, the majority of the eggs are being laid low on bracts and dried blooms. So, we are initiating one pyrethroid application on Bt cotton. Capture is being used on a large acreage due to presence of spider mites. As budworms appear, we will be comparing Denim and Steward to Tracer."

**Marion Farris, Extension Area Entomologist, Coushatta, La.:** "Abundant bollworm moths have been migrating to cotton since late last week. There are eggs, small worms and worms in the blooms this week. For growers with 20% conventional, you will probably need to use a worm rate of a non-pyrethroid material such as

Curacron, Larvin, Tracer, etc. Don't cut rates, since this increases resistance pressure. Fungus has taken aphids out of most fields. Mites have been active in some dry fields. Hopefully, everyone received enough rain to help that situation. If necessary, treat with a label rate of Capture, Comite, Curacron, Kelthane, Larsban or Monitor."

**Craig Massey, Area IPM Specialist, Brownsville, Tenn.:** "Plant bugs are very high, ranging from 3-15%. Square retention has dropped 10-20% in 7-10 days primarily due to plant bugs. They're very mobile. With taller cotton at this time in the season, drop cloths and sweep nets may not be as accurate as visual observations and checking terminals. Malathion is doing well in eradication areas but not giving much residual. Worms are scattered, mainly budworms, with 2-10% worms and 2-8% eggs. The next generation coming out of corn will be a big test. Bts may be less toxic due to bloom tags and boll loads being formed. We expect the next flight July 12-17. Aphids are building in some locations. Fungus is in several Ark. and Miss. locations, and it takes 7-10 days for it to move here. Boll weevils are high in Zones 2 and 3. F1 is hatching with F2 on the way. Stink bugs are increasing in spots. Mites are increasing in rolling hills and dry areas, especially in fields with a mite history."

**Mississippi Degree Day accumulations to 07/06/2000**

Location	PD* 5-7-00
Tunica	992
Lyon	1085
Vance	1059
Stoneville	1140
S'ville Norms	1035
Onward	1074

**Tennessee Degree Day accumulations to 07/06/00**

Location	PD* 5-1-00
Jackson	NA

\*Planting Date

Sources: Mississippi Delta Research and Extension Center Weather/GIS Center; Russ Patrick, Tenn. Cooperative Extension Service