

SoyFax: Midsouth

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Here is this week's *SoyFax*. Thanks to Valent U.S.A. Corporation for its sponsorship of *SoyFax* during the early and mid season periods. This week we welcome FMC Corporation, maker of Mustang Max™ insecticide, as our late season sponsor.

OVERVIEW

Some areas picked up rains over the last week, but many parts of our coverage area still need showers. Irrigation continues on many fronts.

More stinkbug treatments were reported. High populations were noted in a few areas. Garden webworms are being treated widely in Arkansas. David Lanclos (see below) said garden webworms were slipping through pyrethroids used on some grain sorghum in Louisiana.

Except where noted, these reports were made Monday afternoon, Tuesday and Wednesday morning.

CROP REPORTS

Wayne Dulaney, Dulaney Seed

Co., Clarksdale, Miss.: "A few people have sprayed early beans for stinkbugs, but beans immediately around us were planted later than intended due to all the rain, so none of ours are vulnerable yet.

"We're spraying some wheat beans with Roundup and working on grass in conventional beans with Select and some other materials. I saw a lot of little grasshoppers in some doublecrop beans this morning (Monday) and added a low rate of Dimilin to the herbicide. Some of the MG IIIs around here are starting to turn a little, and I wouldn't be surprised if a few acres are cut by August 5."

Hugh Whitby, Rice Consultant, Agrilience, Blackfish, Ark.: "We got a shower today (Monday) and a little one Friday, but nothing really substantial. Soybeans need a rain, and so does the corn and milo. Pivots are running, and growers are into flood and border irrigation on a pretty wide basis. Otherwise, there's not much happening in the beans. A little weed control work is still underway, especially in late beans. Corn is right at

dent, and one more good watering will finish a lot of it."

Joe Townsend, Ind. Consultant, Coahoma, Miss.: "Some of our early beans are filling out the top pods. We've had some droughty conditions on our dryland fields on top of stinkbug numbers building in places. I was in one field today (Monday) with 20-25 stinkbugs in the net in many of the places I stopped to sample. We're seeing a little population explosion in both cotton and beans in Tallahatchie County."

Chris Tingle, Arkansas Extension Soybean Specialist: "Reports from last week indicate that some early planted fields have reached thresholds for stinkbugs in the southern part of the state. Garden webworms also have reached threshold levels in scattered areas in the state.

"Generally, we're in that period where a lot of emphasis has to be put on irrigation scheduling and insect and disease scouting. This past week, many areas approached 100-degree temperatures. On top of sporadic rain-

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fall lately, you can tell we're well into summer. Soybeans in flowering to pod fill can use .2-.3" of water daily. We're still working with limited root systems in many fields this summer, and that may force us to irrigate sooner and more often.

"Much of the crop has already undergone some kind of stress, so we've got to closely manage this one the rest of the season."

Gus Lorenz, Arkansas Extension IPM Specialist: "We've got a pretty good outbreak of stinkbugs in soybeans, and we're spraying a lot of acreage. Our threshold is 9 per 25 sweeps, but we were finding 5X to 6X that number in fields in Lincoln County. Also, garden webworms are reaching treatable levels across a wide area."

Don Parker, Asst. Professor/Extension Entomology Specialist, Raymond, Miss.: "With our corn, about the only area left to be concerned about is in NE Mississippi where rain and flooding delayed planting. That corn is still a little young, and we continue watching for corn borers. By now, most other areas have been treated for the 2nd generation of Southwest corn borers, which has been the key generation to control during the last 2 years.

"That 3rd generation doesn't reduce yield that much. It will cause girdling, which leads to lodging. But I think the crop is far enough along that we can harvest ahead of lodging."

Todd Knight, Ind. Consultant, Lake Providence, La.: "We're spraying some soybeans for stinkbugs. Populations are just spotted around, nothing real heavy. But we do have a lot of fields close to threshold. A few loopers are showing up here and there, but we haven't treated worms in soybeans yet. But we're picking up more as corn dries down, so we'll

probably have to make applications in the next few weeks.

"We also have a lot of MG IIIs and early IVs starting to turn, and I'm hoping we can avoid treating them. So far, we haven't found any major disease problems."

Angela Thompson, Tennessee Extension Soybean Specialist: "The western part of the state is finally getting some much needed rain, although more is needed. The south central counties in Middle Tennessee still look good on moisture. Green and brown stinkbug numbers are on the increase.

"We are really watching fields that are developing pods and seed because a few locations in West Tennessee have reached treatment threshold. We have some minor feeding damage due to Japanese beetles in Middle Tennessee counties."

David Lanclos, Louisiana Extension Soybean Specialist: "Places in north Louisiana could use a rain. We got some showers yesterday (Tuesday), and there were totals of .5" to .75" in places. Some MG IVs are being sprayed for stinkbugs. There's minimal aerial blight around and little to no cercospora. We're at least 3 weeks away from any harvest.

"Some guys are asking now about whether to use defoliants on soybeans and grain sorghum to try to move things along. The main interest is in connection with sugarcane and the push to get the current crop out of the way so they can plant cane. We're still 3 weeks away from any harvest.

"I had a confirmed report yesterday that a few people are still planting soybeans. These are in small acreage areas, maybe 40 acres, and I guess growers want to see how late they can plant. These were MG VIIs. It's doubtful there's enough time to make sufficient yield to offset inputs.

"We're at black layer on about 75% of our corn, and it's starting to dry down. There are reports of failures with pyrethroids going after garden webworms in late planted grain sorghum. The early planted grain sorghum is starting to dry down and looks fantastic."

From July 20 Ag Report, Agricultural Management Services, Inc., Clayton, La., Roger Carter, Tim White, Walter Myers and Nate Wellborn:

CORN: Some farmers bragged they would cut corn next week. Hope they have a drier. Don't believe moisture will fall that quickly even though eardrop is beginning in much of the early maturing corn. Yield potential still looks good. Youngest corn in area under borer assault. Some being treated, some not.

GRAIN SORGHUM: Late season grain sorghum also under borer assault. Very few "headworms" this year, and midge pressure was lighter than last year. Early sorghum will be cut in three weeks.

SOYBEANS: Phytophthora and red crown rot in several of the fields we scout. Thanks to Glen Daniels and Dr. Ken Whitam with LSU for helping us pinpoint the diseases. No control beyond prayer for either disease, but beans are advanced enough that yield losses will be minimal. No more fields treated this week, but still finding near threshold levels of stinkbugs in MG Vs. We may see the "green bean syndrome" if stinkbug levels remain at or near threshold levels in some of the MG Vs for very long. Worm activity has thus far been very light."