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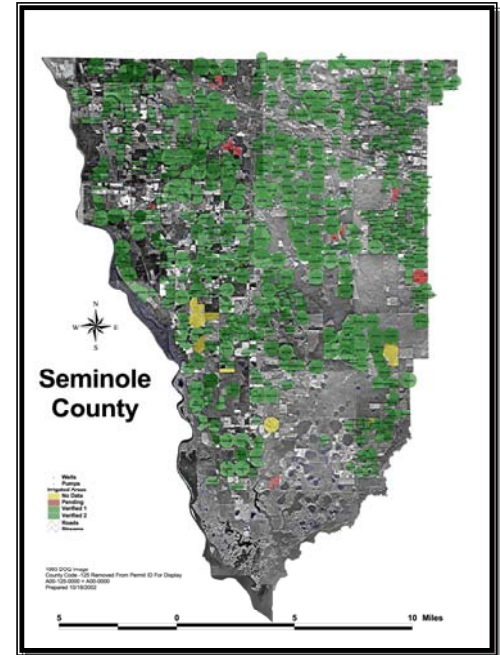
## Seminole Crop E news

June 26, 2009

### Southern Rust on Corn

Southern Corn Rust was found and confirmed this week in a field in southern Miller county, Ga. The Southern Corn Rust was isolated in the field, however had a lot of sporulation. Conditions are now favorable for the rapid spread of Southern Corn Rust in South Georgia.

Corn growers in Southwest Georgia should pay particular attention to protecting their corn crop according to Dr. Bob Kemerait, UGA Extension Plant Pathologist.



This is the Southern Corn Rust we found this week. It came in later this year than in 2008.



I found this softshell turtle crossing a dirt road here in Seminole county. Once a gentleman new to our area called me to say he had a weird creature in his pond. He said it looked like a baby Loch Ness Monster or something. I was scared to go out there but I did and identified it as a softshell turtle.

The Florida softshell turtle (*Apalone ferox*) is a large freshwater turtle with a relatively flat, leathery shell and a distinctive tubular snout. Its eyes are positioned towards the front of the head, giving it almost binocular vision and a distinctly more intelligent look than other turtles. The Florida softshell has well-developed webbing on each foot. It is lightning fast in the water and also on land. Adult softshells are tan/dark brown above and white/cream colored below. Hatchlings and small juveniles are beautifully colored – dark brown/olive with large round, dark spots. They have brightly colored yellow, orange or red stripes on the head and a red/orange rim on the outer margin of the shell. Adult females can reach 24 inches in length and adult males 14 inches in length.

The Florida softshell ranges on the southeastern lower Coastal Plain from southern South Carolina to Mobile, Alabama. The Florida softshell is omnivorous and feeds on snails, insects, crustaceans, amphibians, and fish (live and dead), as well as algae and aquatic plants.

Some of the turtle information is from Matthew J. Aresco, FSU Dept. of Biological Science.

## Lessers in Peanuts

Lesser Cornstalk Borers (LCBs) are really showing up in peanuts this week. They love and thrive in the hot dry weather conditions. Not many peanuts are pegging yet, so they aren't the danger they will be in a few weeks. They can, however cause dead limbs and kill small plants. Usually treatments aren't justified until pegging, and granular chlorpyrifos works pretty well in most cases, but we need a rain or irrigation to activate it. One thing you can do to slow them down is to keep the peanuts wet and pray for rain. Foliar sprayed products don't seem to be very effective.

Here's one I caught in a sandy peanut field this week. They jump around like crazy if you handle them.

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## Watering Corn

We still need to be watering corn heavily in most cases. The following chart shows corn water use and you can see that the use doesn't drop very much even after early denting (which is where some of our fields are) until black layer formation, 15 days after early dent.

### Estimated Water Use of Corn in Georgia. Kerry Harrison and Dewey Lee, UGA Extension Scientists

Corn Growth Stage	Days After Planting	Inches Per Day
Emergence and primary root developing.	0-7	.03
	8-12	.05
Two leaves expanded and nodal roots forming.	13-17	.07
	18-22	.09
Four to six leaves expanding. Growing point near surface. Other leaves and roots developing.	23-27	.12
	28-32	.14
	33-36	.17
Six to eight leaves. Tassel developing. Growing point above ground.	37-41	.19
	42-45	.21
Ten to twelve leaves expanded. Bottom 2-3 leaves lost. Stalks growing rapidly. Ear shoots developing. Potential kernel row number determined.	46-50	.23
	51-54	.25
Twelve to sixteen leaves. Kernels per row and size of ear determined. Tassel not visible but about full size. Top two ear shoots developing rapidly.	55-59	.27
	60-64	.29
Tassel emerging, ear shoots elongating.	65-69	.31
Pollination and silks emerging.	70-74	.32
	75-79	.33
Blister stage.	80-84	.33
Milk stage, rapid starch accumulation.	85-89	.34
Early dough stage, kernels rapidly increasing in weight.	90-94	.34
Dough stage.	95-99	.33
<b>***Early Dent</b>	100-104	.30
Dent.	105-109	.27
Beginning black layer.	110-114	.24
Black layer (physiological maturity). <b>MADE</b>	115-119	.21



JW Warriner is here on the left looking at some cotton that he and the Fiveashes are growing in southern Seminole County. It's squaring and growing well, thanks to sun and irrigation.

**Aphids:** Dr Phillip Roberts, UGA Extension Entomologist reports that Aphids have been reported on cotton from several counties and we typically observe isolated aphid infestations in many fields this time of year. During most years aphids build to high numbers and populations eventually crash due to a naturally occurring fungus. This fungal epizootic typically occurs in late June or early July depending upon location. In most years only a small percentage of fields are treated for aphids. Decision to treat an aphid infestation is a judgment call. One must first consider if the fungal epizootic is near. Is there any indication of the fungus (ie. Gray fuzzy aphid cadavers)? Once numerous gray fuzzy aphid cadavers are observed in a field we would expect the aphid population to crash due to the fungus in about a week. Aphids add stress to plants by feeding on and removing plant juices. Heavy accumulations of honeydew, yellowing terminals, and plant stunting should be considered prior to treating aphids.

Some have expressed concern about

aphids on late planted cotton. As we mentioned earlier aphids are stress inducing pests and high populations on seedling cotton could slow maturity. However, at-plant insecticides (Temik, Cruiser, and Gaucho) are active on aphids and should provide some control for a couple of weeks. Scout and treat on an as needed basis

## Three upcoming field days announced below.

\*Marianna **Florida Peanut Field Day** coming up on Aug 20 at 8 am central time. For more info call 850-482-9904.

\*University of Georgia - **Stripling Irrigation Research Park 2009 Field Day** on June 30, 2009  
9:00 - Registration  
9:30 - Research & Demonstration Tours Begin

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12:00 - Lunch (free to all attendees)  
1:00 - Q&A Interaction With Presenters

Topics likely to be discussed:

- subsurface drip irrigation (corn) • drip irrigated tomato, pepper, and watermelon
- irrigated cotton and varieties • irrigated sweet corn
- irrigated peanut and varieties • soil moisture monitoring systems
- irrigated corn • variable-rate irrigation
- biodiesel peanut • remote sensing for crop stress

For More Information:

Calvin Perry, Rad Yager, or Heather Hunter

Stripling Irrigation Research Park

8207 Hwy 37 Camilla GA 31730

229-522-3623 [sirp@uga.edu](mailto:sirp@uga.edu)

\*The 2009 **Sunbelt Expo Field Day** will be held July 7<sup>th</sup>. Trams will leave promptly at 8:30 AM (or a few minutes earlier) for the field tour. Lunch will be served at 12:15 with grand prize and door prize giveaways scheduled for 1:00 p.m. Contact for more info 229-985-1968.

Later,  
Rome

Rome Ethredge  
Seminole County Extension Agent