Mississippi Crop Situation

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This Weeks Planting Report

National Agricultures Statistics Services (Mississippi) Crop Progress for Week Ending 8/24/08				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5- Year Average
Corn Mature	82	70	94	84
Corn Harvested	15	7	49	39
Cotton Setting Bolls	100	98	100	100
Cotton, Open Bolls	12	5	48	34
Rice Headed	88	81	100	99
Rice Mature	25	7	73	42
Sorghum Heading	99	98	100	100
Sorghum Coloring	87	80	97	98
Sorghum Mature	40	30	78	80
Sorghum Harvested	11	2	36	37
Soybeans Setting Pods	98	96	100	100
Soybeans Turning Color	39	25	63	66
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	15	6	44	48
Soybeans Harvested	2	--	18	24

****We will continue to send out newsletter from this point forward on an as needed basis****

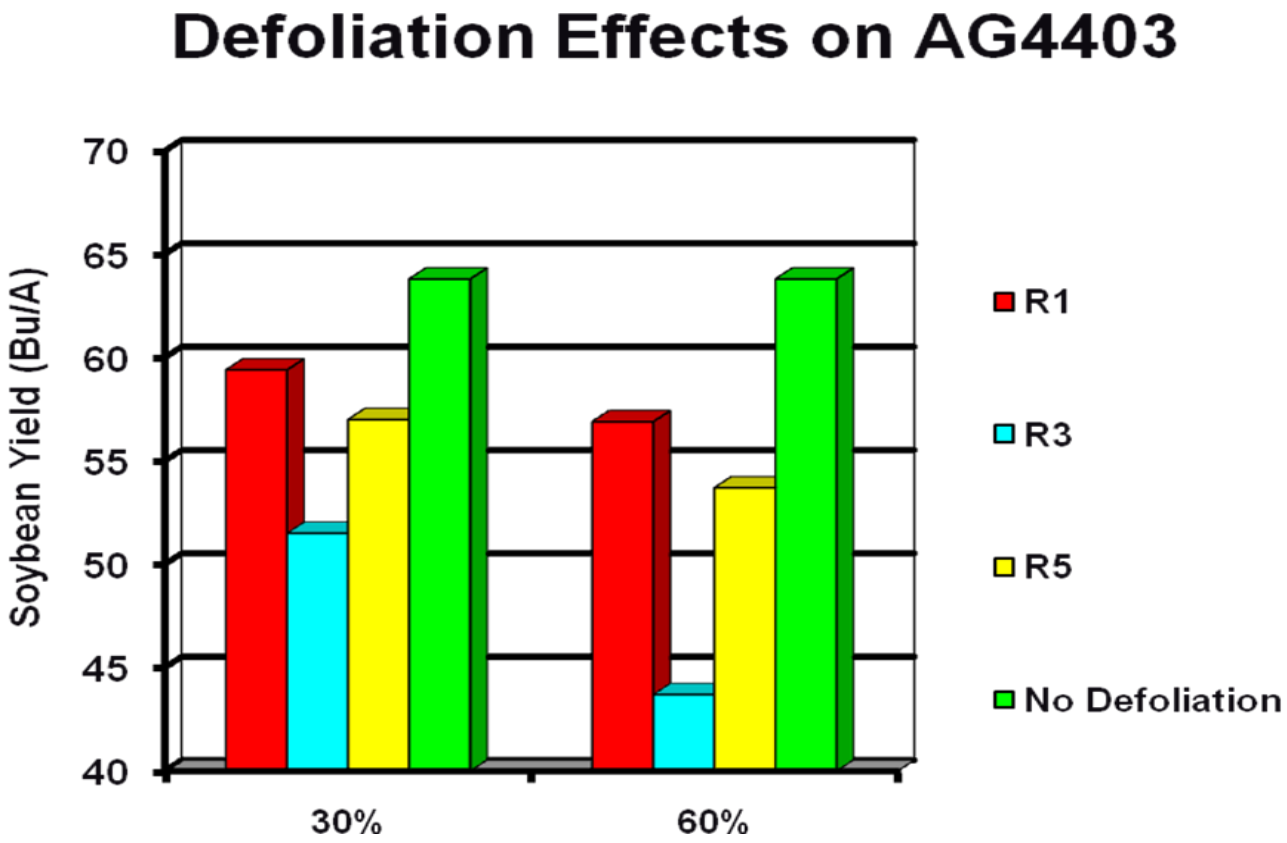
Soybean Insects

Angus Catchot

Soybean Loopers: We are currently experiencing some of the heaviest soybean looper populations that MS has seen in a number of years in the delta region of the state. In the hills, looper numbers are less consistent at this time but can be found at some level in most fields. In past years many people have used less than 4 oz. of Intrepid with success, this has not been the case this year. The success of these low rates was largely due to much lighter pressure and less time to go before the beans mature. With the significant pressure that we have this year coupled with thick canopies, rainfall events, and a long time before maturity on some of the wheat beans and late planted group V's, I would use no less than 1:32 of Intrepid, 1:20 Steward, or 1:6 Larvin. Keep in mind that these are minimum recommendations. Rates should be adjusted up from there depending on pressure.

If looper pressure continues like it is now in some areas of the state, we will have many late planted fields that will require more than one application for soybean loopers to get us to R7. This is not something that we are used to doing in MS but will be required this year to protect the foliage.

I already know that there will be a lot of resistance out there to making more than one application for soybean loopers due to cost. However it is important to maintain foliage on the plant to fill out the developing pods. The study below was conducted at Stoneville by Dr. Dan Poston, Brewer Blessitt, and Tom Eubanks to address yield loss potential if soybean rust ever hit in MS. They hand defoliated 0%, 30%, and 60% of the bottom canopy at R1, R3, R5 and measured yield impact at each of these stages. Because loopers start feeding from the bottom of the plant and work their way up, results should be somewhat comparable to their study below. You can see it will be important to protect the foliage from loopers especially in the R3-R5 growth stages. This is just an example and there would likely be different varietal responses as well.

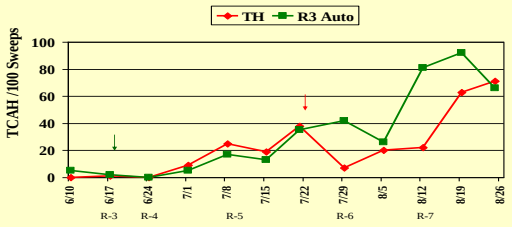


Dr. Gordon Andrews

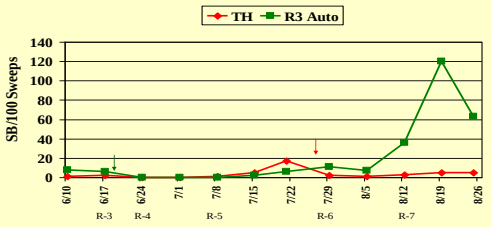
The following graphs contain data collected from three tests which are being conducted in the Mississippi delta this growing season. The objectives of these tests are to look at insect populations and soybean yields produced by two soybean insect management strategies on large (40-50 acre) fields. Strategy/treatment 1 requires no insecticide treatment until published thresholds are sampled from the fields except for three cornered alfalfa hoppers which will be treated at a lower threshold of 40 adults or 2 nymphs per 100 sweeps. Strategy/treatment 2 requires an application of insecticide at the R-3 stage of development and the use of published insect treatment thresholds for the remainder of the season. Test 1 is near Lake Washington in Washington County, test 2 is near Cruger in Holmes County, and test 3 is near Gunnison in Bolivar County.

Test 1

Three Cornered Alfalfa Hoppers per 100 Sweeps (Orthene 1 lb AI/Acre) ↓

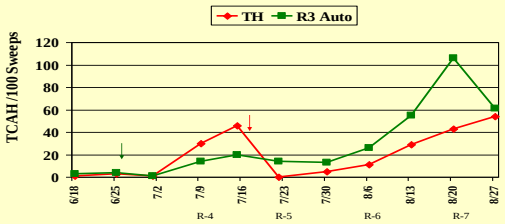


Total Stinkbugs (SB) per 100 Sweeps (Orthene 1 lb AI/Acre)↓

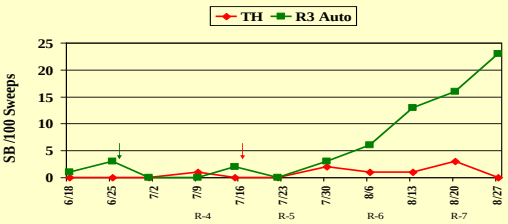


Test 2

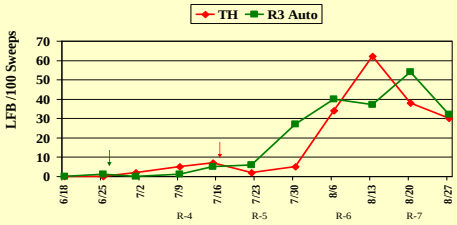
Three Cornered Alfalfa Hoppers per 100 Sweeps (Mustang Max 0.025 lb AI/Acre)↓



Total Stinkbugs (SB) per 100 Sweeps (Mustang Max 0.025 lb AI/Acre) ↓

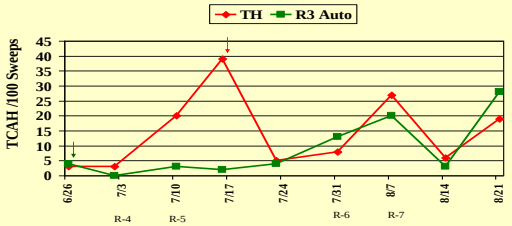


Leaf Feeding Caterpillars (LFC) per 100 Sweeps (Mustang Max 0.025 lb AI/Acre)↓

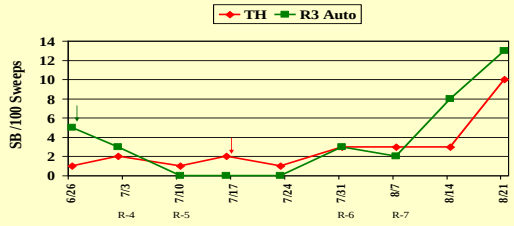


Test 3

Three Cornered Alfalfa Hoppers per 100 Sweeps (Baythroid XL 0.02 lb AI/Acre) ↓



Total Stinkbugs (SB) per 100 Sweeps (Baythroid XL 0.02 lb AI/Acre) ↓



The beans in test 1 and 3 are now just stems and pods and should be ready for harvest. Faye prevented drying but some dry weather will have these two tests ready for harvest shortly. Three cornered alfalfa hoppers and stinkbugs are still trying to get from immature stages to adulthood

so they can fly to the wheat beans. Test 2 is about a week behind the other two tests. The additional graph showing the foliage feeding caterpillars (loopers in this case) was included in this newsletter to show why early planting pays and to remind those who have late beans to continue checking after you get rid of the loopers. The insects from the early beans will be looking for another home.

Soybean Agronomics

Dr. Trey Koger

Extensive weed pressure and uneven drying down of soybean has raised the question of whether or not to use harvest aids in a lot of fields across the state. Desiccants are the most commonly used harvest aids. Desiccants can help to kill green tissue (leaves, stems, pods) on soybean plants and weed biomass. It is important to note that desiccants will not dry down a "butter bean", i.e take a butter bean from >20% moisture to less that <15% moisture. Desiccants will help to kill and make the pods of butter beans brown, making them easier to harvest, but the butter bean will still be green and high in moisture.

Desiccants can be an excellent tool to kill green soybean plants, kill weed vegetation quickly, and overall improve harvest efficiency by allowing soybean to be harvested more quickly and losing less soybean out the back of the combine. Desiccants are commonly used to kill green stems or green leaves on soybean plants when the seed inside the pods are ready to harvest. Desiccants are also often used to kill green portions of fields that contain portions that are ready to harvest.

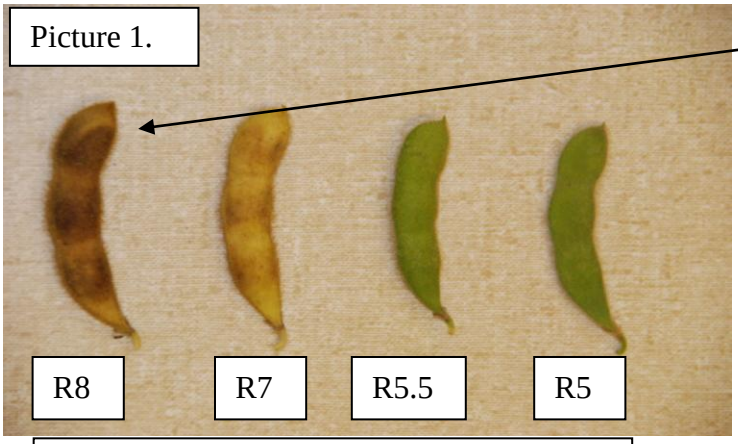
Most of our commonly used desiccants such as Gramoxone Inteon are excellent for killing green vegetation, but should not be utilized to remove excessive moisture. The addition of sodium chlorate to a desiccant can be helpful in removing excessive moisture from green soybean tissue and/or seed, as well as weed vegetation.

There are several key factors to keep in mind when thinking about using a desiccant or desiccant + sodium chlorate combination. Gramoxone Inteon is the most commonly used desiccant because it does an excellent job of killing green vegetation quickly. Keep in mind, however, because Gramoxone Inteon kills vegetation so quickly it can be somewhat harsh to soybean seed pods. It does not damage mature seed inside the pod, but can weaken the seed pod to a degree. Thus, it is important to be prepared to harvest the soybean quickly after desiccation. It is also important to not desiccate soybean just before a rain if possible. Delaying harvest due to prolonged rain after desiccation of soybean can result in damage to seed with the development of seed rot due to phomopsis seed decay. Delaying harvest for an extensive time period after desiccating soybean can also lead to substantial shattering. It is important to be prepared to harvest soybean soon after desiccation and to not desiccate too many acres resulting in some acreage not harvested for a prolonged period of time. Another use for desiccants is to allow for continual harvesting. Planning ahead and desiccating a block of soybean so that the combine does not sit idle waiting for soybean to get ready to harvest is another reason to desiccate soybean.

When to apply desiccants. Apply when 70% of the leaves have fallen from the plant and/or when at least 65% of the seed pods have reached a mature brown color. To determine % leaf drop: divide the number of nodes in which the leaf has fallen off by the total number of nodes on the plant and multiply that number by 100. For example, say a plant has 14 nodes in which the

leaf has fallen off and the plant has a total of 20 nodes. Divide 14 into 20 and multiply by 100, resulting in 70% leaf loss. See picture 1 below for pods of different colors and maturity levels.

Picture 1.

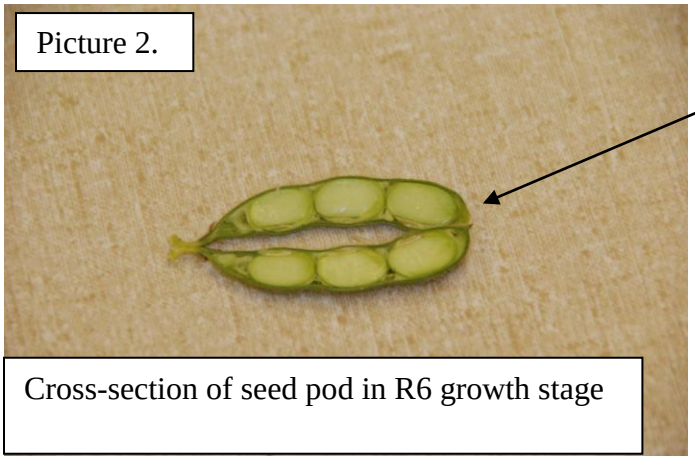


Mature seed pod, brown in color.

Maturity levels of soybean seed pods

Desiccating soybean before reaching these growth stages can result in significant yield losses. Desiccating soybean in the R6 growth stage (see picture 2 below) can result in up to a 23% yield reduction (see figure 1 below).

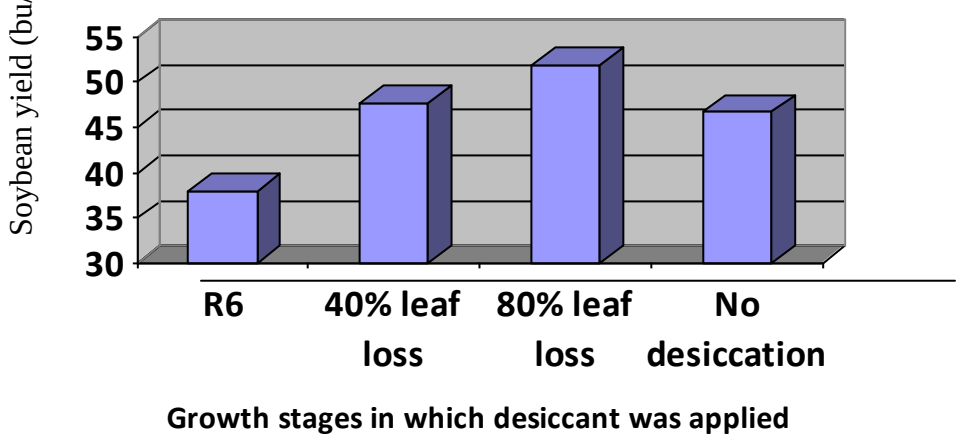
Picture 2.



Seed are touching one another inside seed pod and close to consuming all available space within seed pod.

Cross-section of seed pod in R6 growth stage

Figure 1: Gramoxone Inteon (16 oz/A) + sodium chlorate (2 lb/A) + 0.25% v/v NIS applied to indeterminate soybean at various growth stages



Harvest aid products:

Product	Use rate (fl oz/A)	Adjuvant info	Pre-harvest interval (days)	Additional information
Gramoxone Inteon	8 - 16	1% crop oil or ≥0.25% NIS	15	Excellent for desiccating green tissue on soybean and broadleaf and grass weeds.
Aim EC	1.4	1% crop oil	3	Desiccates green tissue on soybean plants and broadleaf weeds. Has no activity on grass weeds.
Sodium chlorate (Defol 750) *when used with Gramoxone	34*	1% crop oil or ≥0.25% NIS	7	Most commonly applied along with Gramoxone Inteon. Should be used to reduce moisture in soybean and weeds, not solely as a desiccant.
Sodium chlorate (Defol 750)	102	1% crop oil or ≥0.25% NIS	7	Should be used to reduce moisture in soybean and weeds, not solely as a desiccant.
Glyphosate (*Roundup PowerMax)	22*	Not required	14	Excellent at controlling grass weeds. Grasses require 10-14 days to die.

Levels of desiccation with different products: The table below contains results of research conducted in 2005 to evaluate the effect of various harvest aid treatments on soybean yield, % moisture, seed weight, % foreign matter, and time required to harvest. Treatments were applied at 70% leaf drop at 15 gallons of spray solution per acre. Trial contained extensive amount of grass weed vegetation at time of treatment.

Treatment*	yield (bu/A)	Seed wt (grams/100 seed)	Moisture (%)	Time required to harvest (seconds/plot)
Gramoxone Inteon (16 oz/A)	55	12.3	13.8	7
Gramoxone Inteon (16 oz/A) + Sodium chlorate (2 lb/A)	55	12.4	12.8	7.1
Aim (1.4 oz/A)	53	12.4	14.6	10.2
Aim (1.4 oz/A) + Sodium chlorate (2 lb/A)	54	12.5	13.4	9.8
Sodium chlorate (2 lb/A)	53	12.4	13.8	11.1
Sodium chlorate (6 lb/A)	53	12.4	13.4	10.9
No desiccant	51	12.3	16.5	13.3

*All harvest aids were applied with 1% v/v crop oil concentrate.

The use of a harvest aid can help to improve yields and significantly improve harvest efficiency by allowing for quicker harvest. The time required to harvest plots treated with Gramoxone Inteon or Gramoxone Inteon + sodium chlorate was half of that required to harvest soybean not treated with a harvest aid. Keep in mind extensive grass weed pressure was present in this trial.

Based on these data, twice as many acres desiccated with Gramoxone Inteon or Gramoxone Inteon + sodium chlorate could be harvested per day when compared to acres not desiccated.

A harvest aid should be applied and the product used should be based on the amount of green vegetation in the field, what is green (soybean and/or weeds), and if moisture levels in soybean (plants and/or seed) are high. Remember there is no replacement for high water volumes. The higher the water volume applied, the better the harvest aid product often works. Utilizing harvest aids result in an added expense that must be justified. This expense can be justified if extensive green vegetation (soybean and/or weeds) exists that could potentially reduce yields and/or harvest efficiency, to reduce combine idle time in some cases, and to reduce the time required to harvest soybean when other crops are ready to harvest.

Soybean Fungicide Recommendations

Drs. Allen, Billy Moore, Richard Baird, Trey Koger, Alan Blaine

Even though most of this information was included in the newsletter last week we have revised some of these recommendations following several key discussions in the past 7 days. We are still receiving calls regarding application guidelines for fungicides to prevent seed rot at or beyond R6. Most notably these calls are coming due to the recent inclement weather that followed Tropical Depression Fay and with the developing situation in the Gulf regarding Tropical Storm Gustav. These recommendations should be considered even if you have made the normal R3-R4 fungicide application. Please read these set of recommendations thoroughly before you consider purchasing and applying a fungicide. If you need help determining your particular growth stage, do not hesitate to call. **One important thing to remember, a fungicide application made at the R3-R4 growth stage will <u>NOT</u> give you protection all the way to R7.** The normal effective amount of protection that can be afforded from the R3-R4 application is 14-21 days depending on the product that you applied, weather conditions, inoculum in the area, and your particular crop rotation. The target organisms/diseases for these types of late-season fungicide applications are mainly the Phomopsis/Diaporthe complex. These fungi are the major seed rotting organisms in our production system. As a reference, the photos on the left were taken last year in a field of soybeans that did not receive a late fungicide application and due to inclement weather pod and seed rotting fungi were able to impact yield due to a delayed harvest. Following the photos from top to bottom, Phomopsis seed decay symptoms on the exterior of a bean pod (A), signs of Diaporthe on the pod surface (B), and the interior appearance of a pod that has been infected with Phomopsis seed decay (C). Soybean seeds that are infected by this organism will appear white, chalky, and may additionally have some fungal growth present within the pod.

While MS does not have an extensive set of data on the late application of fungicides to prevent yield loss, in the past, observations have been made up to R6 that would indicate that seed rot may be prevented by applications of a fungicide at approximately R5.5. These fungicide applications have been shown to prevent seed rot during conditions of prolonged humidity. However, conditions favoring seed rot, and methods to control the situation using a fungicide after R6 have not been assessed in MS.

We recommend Headline, Quadris, or Topsin M (4.5 FL) to control/prevent the situations that may develop late in the season in those cases mentioned above. Of course, a recommended rate of 6 fl. oz./Acre for maximum control (for Headline or Quadris) is always recommended to achieve the greatest amount of control. Topsin can be applied to soybeans at a rate of 20 fl oz/A. The full-labeled rate is always better than a reduced fungicide rate, however, data is lacking regarding this topic. A reduced fungicide rate recommendation is almost always based on estimations and we cannot state whether or not the applied, reduced rate will be beneficial to the particular situation. One of the most important things to remember with any fungicide is the pre-harvest interval (PHI). The PHI for Headline is 21 days, 14 days for Quadris and 21 days for Topsin.

However, with soybean prices where they are (essentially $13.00/bushel), and depending on where and/or when your particular beans may have been priced, and the weather that could either delay harvest or increase the likelihood of a yield limiting situation due to seed and pod-rotting fungi this is a very important developing situation. Keep one thing in mind when deciding to make this type of a fungicide application, this is considered to be an "insurance" application, to insure against yield loss, this application will NOT enhance or increase yield. I suggest that this be considered a rescue treatment but will depend on the particular situation. Based on the closing market price of soybeans at the release of this newsletter:

Rescuing ≈ 2 bushels of soybeans/Acre = paying for the fungicide application

One additional thing to keep in mind, cooler temperatures are NOT favored by the fungi that can lead to pod and seed rotting. But, based on the morphological/physiological situations regarding these fungi, infection into the pod may have occurred around R5.5. This means that applying a fungicide post infection may not be economically beneficial, but we do NOT have any data to suggest either scenario. However, if temperatures and humidity both increase the development of this fungal complex could increase.

There are a lot of factors that need to be considered and ideally each field should be considered as a separate entity and dealt with accordingly. Please keep these important factors in mind before purchasing, and applying a fungicide:

1. Yield potential
2. Number of days before expected harvest date (factor the PHI into your decision)
3. Weather conditions at, before, and after application
4. Whether or not these are continuous soybeans (beans following beans, not beans following wheat and soybeans)
5. Whether or not the soybean pods are in contact with the ground
6. Whether or not there is a disease already present in the field
7. Price you booked your soybeans
8. If you have the opportunity to harvest your beans at R7 (or R7+) and need to apply gramoxone prior to harvesting them make sure your equipment is ready. With the increased likelihood of rain from Gustav, the added moisture that will likely occur would have a devastating impact on completely dried pods.

9. Fungicide applications post-R6.5 (which is the stage where beans are turning and still have some green pod remaining) may not be economically feasible since the plant will not give you an added benefit of moving the fungicide and the pods are no longer receiving moisture from the plant. In this case the fungicide will only coat the pod that it comes in contact with and if infection has occurred there will not be a benefit to applying the fungicide.

Please stay tuned to this topic as we have several trials in the field that we will be rating in the coming weeks and including yield data. If you have specific questions regarding your particular circumstances please do not hesitate to call and discuss this issue with me (662-402-9995).

Peanuts

Mike Howell

With the current weather conditions we are experiencing across much of the peanut growing area, conditions are favorable for the development of white mold. This disease will persist underground during dry periods, but is evident on above ground portions of the plant when adequate moisture is present. Typical recommendations are for 2 applications of a fungicide targeted at soil borne diseases, such as Abound or Headline, at 60 and 90 days after emergence. I have observed this week several fields that have received these applications that are still in need of a third application. If you need to make a third application, it is also a good idea to change the chemistry of the fungicide you are using. If you were on an Abound program for instance, you should consider switching to a product such as Artisan.

Fall armyworms are beginning to move into peanuts and treatment has begun in several areas. Treat when 6 larvae are found per row foot. Control options include pyrethroids, Dimilin, an insect growth regulator that is most effective on small larvae, and Intrepid. Loopers, green clover worms, and velvet bean caterpillars are also foliage feeders that we need to be scouting for at this time.

As harvest time nears, I will begin pod blasting programs as needed. If you are interested in this program, contact your local extension office or myself. I will try to locate these sessions so growers will have a location in their area.

NE Mississippi Pest Update

Dr. Don Cook

Three-cornered alfalfa hopper and stink bug infestations are present in many soybean fields. Many of these fields are at or above threshold and treatments are being applied. Some fields have low numbers of green cloverworms and loopers. The potential for bollworm infestations in soybeans exists in Northeast Mississippi. The soybean crop in Northeast Mississippi is later than normal and pheromone trap captures of bollworm adults have increased in recent weeks.

Boll Rots of Cotton

Dr. Darrin Dodds and Dr. Tom Allen

Reports of boll rots have been pouring in after the recent rainfall activity. Boll rot is a generic term that refers to a rot that can be attributed to numerous bacteria and fungi that can damage bolls, seed, and lint. At least 170 microorganisms, mostly fungi, have been reported to cause boll rots. In the Mid-South these may include: species of *Alternaria*, *Aspergillus*, *Colletotrichum*, *Diplodia*, *Fusarium*, *Glomerella*, *Nigrospora*, *Phytophthora*, *Rhizoctonia*, all of which are fungi, and a specific species of *Xanthomonas*, a bacterium. Each of these particular organisms has a distinctive appearance on the boll and can infect the boll through different mechanisms. There are several species of *Fusarium* that have been reported to cause boll rot and these organisms typically enter cotton bolls through the base of the boll. In general, species of *Fusarium* may cause the inside of the boll to appear brown to black in color and cause a pink to white coloration on the outside of the boll (see attached photos). Members of the genus *Diplodia* will usually attack the bracts although with adequate moisture it can infect cotton bolls through the suture lines or the carpel wall. *Diplodia* can cause the boll to turn black in color, after which the boll will dry and open (hard lock). *Glomerella* generally causes reddish-brown spots on the surface of the boll, which will turn black with time. *Xanthomonas* is also responsible for bacterial blight and angular leaf spot diseases. Initial symptoms include a water-soaked or greasy lesion on the surface of the boll. The organism will only enter the boll through pre-existing openings; however, once it enters the boll, it can cause hard lock as well as lint with yellow spots. Diseases caused by *Xanthomonas* can be carried over to the following growing season through the seed. *Rhizoctonia* can infect bolls as it moves up the stem from the soil during periods of high humidity. The result will be mycelial growth on the boll. *Alternaria* commonly appears in Mississippi in the form of leaf spot disease. Boll rot has been widely reported over the past several growing seasons. However, this disease can also enter cotton bolls through the suture line resulting in bolls that will hard

lock (see attached photos, specifically the bottom photo) or even totally destroyed if the proper conditions are present.

Essentially three conditions must be met for the organisms that cause boll rot to become problematic. First and foremost, the causal agent(s) responsible for the disease must be present in a given field. These bacteria or fungi may be soil borne, located within plant tissue present in the field, or, in most cases, the organisms produce spores that are airborne in nature and can travel distances with the aid of wind or rain. Additionally, a susceptible host, in our case, cotton must also be present. Cotton susceptibility to boll rot can be influenced by variety, stage of growth, growth habit of the plant, level of insect damage, and whether or not a plant is nutrient stressed. However, we suggest that ALL of our cotton varieties have some form of susceptibility to these fungi, it is likely that there is no true resistance to this situation. This year in particular we have seen more boll rot in some locations and this might be a function of a really strong cotton crop. Some of the appearance of boll rot may be due to a stressful, dry June and July, and excessive moisture in the past few weeks. Generally, moisture is a controlling factor in the appearance of boll rot. Additionally, optimum ranges for relative humidity and temperature are 95-100% and 60 - 90°F. Fungal growth will slow and/or stop when the relative humidity drops to 80%. There are several mechanisms by which these pathogens will infect a plant including through wounds from insects, through stomates, nectaries, and along sutures on bolls, and some are even capable of penetrating through the boll wall.

Field selection, controlling rank growth and insects, as well as proper fertility can reduce the severity of boll rot. Attempting to stop a boll rot problem can be frustrating and unproductive. Defoliation of the lower portion of the plant to reduce humidity can be effective; however, it is difficult to remove only the leaves from the lower portion of the plant and not damage the leaves on the upper portion of the plant that are needed to mature the uppermost bolls. Premature defoliation is not recommended as it will most likely reduce yield and quality of your crop. Although Headline and Quadris fungicides are labeled for use in cotton; applications at this point in the growing season have not been proven to be effective in reducing or arresting boll rot. Remember, these two fungicides are labeled for a preventative situation which essentially means if you have a disease in your field and apply either of these two fungicides you will NOT stop the disease you have, but you MIGHT prevent spread of the disease if further infection has not occurred. There are several reasons for this including spray penetration and coverage of the lower canopy where boll rot is occurring. There is some evidence indicating that fungicide applications during flowering may reduce the severity of hard lock; however, data regarding the effect of fungicides on boll rot and/or hard lock in Mississippi is lacking. Due to these factors, fungicide application to control boll rot is **NOT** recommended at this time.

Bollworm/Budworm Traps

Pheromone Traps Captures – Don Cook, Chris Daves, and Fred Musser. Week of August 25, 2008.

County	This week last year Bollworm	Bollworm	This week last year Budworm	Budworm	Beet Armyworm
Calhoun		60		1	112
Chickasaw		218		23	35
Grenada		43		1	-
Hinds		139		4	7
Lafayette		53		1	1
Lee		125		3	8
Lowndes		59		12	0
Madison		132		12	8
Monroe		30		8	0
Noxubee		5		0	0
Oktibbeha		19		0	0
Pontotoc		35		2	1
Prentiss		144		12	2
Rankin		137		17	8
Scott		66		7	2
Union		45		2	9
Warren		285		21	40
Webster		103		0	2

Ryan Jackson USDA Trap line

August 25, 2008

County	This Week last Year Bollworm	Bollworm	This Week last Year Budworm	Budworm
Washington		117		23
Sharkey		142		0
Humphreys		145		11
Yazoo		36		11
Holmes		31		1
Leflore		72		4
Tallahatchie		157		9
Coahoma		151		5
Bolivar		197		0
Sunflower		99		30

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Extension Row Crop Contact List			
State Specialist Contact Information			
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