

Mississippi Crop Situation

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This Weeks Planting Report

National Agriculture Statistics Services (Mississippi) Crop Progress for Week Ending 07/06/08

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5- Year Average
Corn Silked	95	93	99	96
Corn Dough	57	20	74	65
Corn Dent	4	0	32	21
Cotton Squaring	76	66	94	87
Cotton Setting Bolls	22	2	27	35
Peanuts Pegging	30	10	38	--
Rice Headed	0	0	10	10
Sorghum Heading	51	44	73	67
Sorghum Coloring	0	0	2	3
Soybeans Emerged	100	99	100	100
Soybeans Blooming	77	65	90	84
Soybeans Setting Pods	40	19	44	57
Sweet Potatoes Planted	94	87	94	86
Winter Wheat Harvested	100	99	100	99

Cotton Agronomics

Dr. Darrin Dodds

According to USDA statistics (above), $\frac{3}{4}$ of the cotton in the state is squaring compared to 66% last week, and a five-year average of 87%. Nearly 22% of the crop is setting bolls compared to 2% last week and a five-year average of 35% at this time. Rainfall, or the lack thereof, has been the topic of discussion for several weeks now. Speaking with folks around the state, it appears as if the rain we did receive was very spotty. Many folks have reported receiving 1"+ in some areas and 0.3" in others with lesser amounts of rainfall being more common than higher amounts of rainfall. Soil moisture, whether from rainfall or irrigation, is important for several reasons. Water provides turgor pressure inside cell turgid and expanding, reduced water availability reduces growth of stems and leaves. Rainfall or irrigation acts to cool plants and soil. 99.9% of the water that is absorbed by the plant is transpired out of the leaves providing a cooling effect on the plant. Additionally, selected nutrients are brought into the plant via the flow of water to the roots. If water flow is restricted, flow of nutrients is restricted. Excessively dry weather can result in stunted growth, root growth limitations, square and boll shed, and have potentially detrimental effects on fiber quality. Plant height is directly related to water availability. Cotton can gain as much as 1" of height per day when conditions are optimum; however, when cotton begins wilting and showing signs water stress, daily growth can approach zero. Additionally, water stressed leaves tend to be smaller and fewer in number. Generally, cotton will develop the similar numbers of nodes whether under drought stress or not. Drought stressed plants will have

nodes stacked closer together. Cotton root growth is also dependant upon soil moisture. Cotton root growth can be restricted in coarse soils when soil moisture is limited. The effects of drought on root growth can be observed on finer textured soils; however, these soils tend to allow for continued root growth during dry conditions compared to coarse textured soils. Cotton tends to be most sensitive to drought during bloom and less sensitive during the seeding stage and during boll opening. Drought during bloom can result in square and boll shed. Additionally, the effects of drought should be considered when it becomes time to defoliate the crop. Mid-season drought results in tough, waxy leaves that are more difficult to defoliate. Keep in mind the weather conditions we are currently experiencing when making defoliation decisions this fall.

Table 1. Growth and development verification fields over the past week.

Location	Height		# Nodes		NAWF		Internode Length*	
	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week
Greenwood	28.5	22.1	13.6	12.2	5.3	--	2.7	2.18
Holly Ridge	27.5	17.8	12.2	9.1	--	--	3.1	1.97
Inverness	30.5	25.5	16.2	16.2	7	7.4	3.0	2.38
Inverness	28.9	19.6	14.4	11.8	6.7	--	2.4	1.65
Minter City	28.8	22.1	13.4	12.8	5.9	--	2.7	1.93

* Internode lengths from last week were collected between nodes three and four, internode lengths from this week were collected between nodes four and five.

Delta Research and Extension Center 2008 Agronomic Crops Field Day:

The 2008 Agronomic Crops Field Day will be held at the Charles W. Capps Center at the Delta Research and Extension Center in Stoneville, MS on July 17, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. in the Capps Center. A General Session will begin at 8:30 a.m. featuring a discussion of the 2008 Farm Bill, followed by split sessions with presentations about current research on rice/soybeans and cotton/corn. A catfish lunch will be served at noon. For detailed information go to the DREC web page at: msucares.com/drec or contact Jody Stovall at 662-686-2316 or jstovall@drec.msstate.edu.

Cotton Insects

Dr. Jeff Gore

Spider Mites: Spider mites have been increasing across the Delta and other areas of Mississippi over the last few weeks. With the hot dry weather we've had, mite pressure is likely to continue to increase. We have gotten some scattered showers over the past couple of days. Heavy showers will provide some relief for spider mites, but we haven't seen widespread crashes of mites following rains the past few years. A heavy shower will knock the population back some, but they quickly rebound after a few days of dry weather. That being said, applications of miticide applications will be important, especially in fields showing a lot of symptomology on new foliage. Below are the data from a test we conducted here in Stoneville this week. As you will notice, all of the compounds we used reduced mite numbers compared to the non-treated at both 2 and 4 days after treatment. Also notice that numbers in the non-treated plots went down from Wednesday (7/9) to today (7/11). We got a heavy shower yesterday afternoon that knocked the population down some.

Treatment	Rate (Product/Acre)	2DAT (7/9)	4DAT (7/11)
Portal Non-Ionic Surfactant	16 oz. 0.5%	18.5b	3.5b
Zephyr	6 oz.	17.5b	2.3b
Zephyr	4 oz.	15.0b	3.5b
Dicofol 4	32 oz.	20.5b	6.0b
Oberon 4	8 oz.	29.8b	2.5b
Comite II	36 oz.	15.8b	4.5b
Non-treated	---	74.5a	28.5a

Tarnished Plant Bugs: Tarnished plant bugs have continued to be a problem in many areas of the Delta as most of the crop begins to flower, especially in the south and central Delta. We have not seen the same pressure as we did last year except in a few isolated areas. If you remember, last year at this time we were receiving a lot of rain that delayed many applications and reduced the efficacy of the insecticides because they were being washed off shortly after application. We haven't had a problem with that this year. Most of the applications appear to be going out in a timely manner and in most areas we appear to be getting much better control than we did last year. As a result, fruit retention is a lot better than it was last year at this time. However, things can change very quickly and the first four to five weeks of flowering are when the greatest yield losses can occur from plant bugs. As the crop moves into flowering stages, it is important to start using the black drop cloths to monitor nymph populations. This is also the time to start switching off of the neonicotinoids and start using the organophosphates such as acephate and Bidrin. When nymphs are present, it is also a good idea to start incorporating Diamond with at least one of those applications.

Cotton Aphids: Aphids have been building in a lot of areas. We have collected aphids from several fields over the last few weeks following applications of neonicotinoids (Centric and Trimax Pro). The neonicotinoid applications have primarily targeted plant bugs at plant bug rates and a lot of people have noticed higher than expected survival of cotton aphids behind those applications. Based on our testing using a leaf dip bioassay, their susceptibility appears to be somewhat reduced. At this point, the least susceptible population that we've tested had a 5-fold level of tolerance to Centric. Fortunately, I am pretty sure that I saw some aphids in the field this week that had died as a result of the fungus. I can't be one hundred percent certain without a positive identification, but it is the right time of year for the fungus to start showing up.

Cotton Diseases

Dr. Tom Allen, Dr. Darrin Dodds, Mr. Mike Howell, and Ms. Clarissa Balbalian

We'll break the state into two sections for this newsletter piece. We are currently dealing with two interesting disease issues in cotton this year. One disease is occurring in the southeastern part of the state, and also occurring in nearby Alabama, and one is occurring in the southern part of the Delta. One disease is foliar in nature, and the other is a main stem disorder that appears to be quite devastating. We'll begin with the foliar disease, identified from around Louise, MS. This newsletter piece will serve as a bit of an update to the two diseases as we are continuing to gather information on both of them.

Foliar disease (Delta). There are several foliar diseases of cotton that all produce symptoms that are very similar in appearance. The causal agents are all different fungi. However, an interesting situation has developed over the past few years throughout the cotton growing regions of the U.S. A disease "complex" that tends to occur when soil nutrients, most notably potassium,

are present in less than acceptable levels has been identified in recent years in southern Mississippi. Generally speaking the two diseases that can become more recognizable when soil nutrients are limiting are Alternaria and Cercospora leaf spot. This season we have encountered some leaf spot diseases in a few fields, one in particular in Louise, MS. Small, circular, reddish-



brown spots, with a gray center were identified on cotton by a consultant (see photo). The causal agent has been identified as *Helminthosporium gossypii*. This fungus generally causes a nondescript, purely cosmetic lesion on leaves that does not require fungicide control. The disease will run its course, and will generally not get worse. However, one interesting thing to note is that potassium was deficient in the leaf samples that were collected from this particular location and analyzed by the Mississippi State

University Plant Pathology Laboratory in Starkville. This disease has not been reported to be increased due to potassium deficiency and the reports of disease increase due to potassium deficiency have all been from soil with that particular nutrient deficiency. Right now this is a good conversation piece and something we will attempt to explore in the future to see if there is some sort of correlation between soil and plant nutrients and this particular foliar disease.

As a general rule of thumb, the leaf spot/foliar diseases of cotton have not been a yield limiting situation in Mississippi in the past. However, depending on the weather conditions at the time of disease development it is possible that some yield loss could occur, albeit very low yield loss potential. With this said, I am really bringing this point up to drive home one important message. Headline was recently labeled for foliar disease control in cotton. The label covers several diseases, however, NONE of these have ever been found to cause a real yield limiting situation. At the end of this season Mississippi State University will have more data to speak to the overall “plant health” ability of Headline, and several other fungicide formulations, that include Quadris, in cotton. Quadris will likely be labeled for foliar disease control in cotton in 2009. Both Headline and Quadris have been reported to produce a yield enhancement when applied two weeks following first bloom in numerous field trials around the cotton belt. We are in the process of addressing this question in MS and will have a report sometime in the fall, following harvest.

Stem disease (southeastern MS). Our Area Agronomist in the southeastern part of the state, Mike Howell, had noticed this particular disease several years ago. Finally, this year we have been able to put a name to the disease, and also a causal agent thanks to some great field observations, good photos, a diagnostician that’s stayed on top of things and some good information mining on the internet. This cotton stem disease is cotton stem canker and is caused



by *Phoma exigua*. Cotton stem canker can also be referred to as wet weather blight, or Ascochyta blight. The fungus that causes this disease has most notably been a leaf spot fungus in the past. However, given the right environmental conditions (which seem to be wet weather, followed by hot dry weather, and then wet, cooler weather; at least in southeast MS in 2008) the fungus can cause stem canker. One particular field had an estimated 40% incidence of the disease. This disease manifests itself in the field as a sore, or canker, on the main stem, at or just above the soil line that will

appear as a reddish-brown discoloration and may begin as a swollen area on the stem. In fact, the symptoms on the main stem appeared to have been caused by insect feeding but this was not the case. The fungus will infect the plant, and can in severe cases girdle the entire stem (see photos). This can lead to a general wilt in the aboveground plant parts where leaves will lose their vigor, turn brown on the edges, and start to dry. This occurs when the plant loses its ability to transport water and nutrients to aboveground plant parts. Plant stems that are split with a knife will have a vascular staining that will normally be brown in color (see photo). This disease is not to be confused with the vascular wilt diseases but can be told apart from *Fusarium* and *Verticillium* wilt because the vascular staining will tend to stay around the canker, and will not go all the way down the plant into the roots.



We still have some information to collect on this disease and will certainly keep you posted as things develop. I can say that there may be differences in the cotton variety trials in southeastern MS with three varieties appearing to show symptoms of the stem canker. Mike Howell's student worker was able to identify the disease in three particular varieties but did not find symptoms in any of the other varieties.

Control measures for this particular disease are limited at this time. Currently fungicides are not labeled for foliar application to control stem canker. Very little has been published on the disease but other states in the cotton producing region have had similar reports of cotton stem canker in the past and as I mentioned above, Alabama is also reporting the disease this year. The fungus is very common and has been reported to cause leaf spots on soybean as well as numerous weed species, so rotation will not limit the presence of the fungus. North Carolina has reported that tillage has no impact on the presence of the disease.



Corn Agronomics

Dr. Erick Larson

Will Rainfall Help Now? – Dryland corn which did successfully pollinate and still has green leaves will definitely benefit from substantial early July rainfall. Rainfall obviously will also be a tremendous benefit for irrigators, which were generally spoiled by plentiful rain last July, allowing them to forego late season irrigation. Corn will generally respond to July moisture because it will not reach physiological maturity (black layer) until late-July or substantially later, depending upon planting date and latitude. Kernel number is generally determined by the milk stage (roasting ear) about 20 days after pollination. Severe drought stress has already limited this

vital yield component in many areas or pollination may have failed to some extent. However, corn will continue to fill seed weight normally well into July to August, depending upon crop maturity. Moisture will also substantially help maintain plant health, including stalk strength, and grain quality. If substantial rainfall does not come, extreme drought will accelerate maturity of stricken fields, as plants sacrifice energy reserves in vegetative parts in desperate attempt to fill grain. Thus, many fields will likely senesce or die prematurely.

Corn Irrigation Termination – A common irrigation error is terminating irrigation before corn physiological maturity (black layer) occurs. Irrigators were generally spoiled by plentiful rain last July, allowing them to forego critical late season irrigation. Accordingly, 2007 corn yields benefited tremendously from that moisture. Most Mississippi-grown corn will not likely reach physiological maturity until mid-July or later, depending upon the latitude and planting date. However, when normal July weather persists and rainfall fails to meet crop demand, premature irrigation termination will accelerate maturity, prohibiting kernels from reaching their full potential size and weight. Although kernels appear somewhat mature and corn water use begins declining at the dent stage, this is far too early to terminate irrigation. Potential kernel weight is only about 75% complete at the dent stage (Figure 1). Thus, termination of irrigation at the dent stage can reduce grain yields as much as 15-20% when hot, dry conditions persist. Early irrigation termination will also likely reduce stalk strength and promote lodging, because plants will cannibalize energy from vegetative organs to fill kernels when they are stressed.

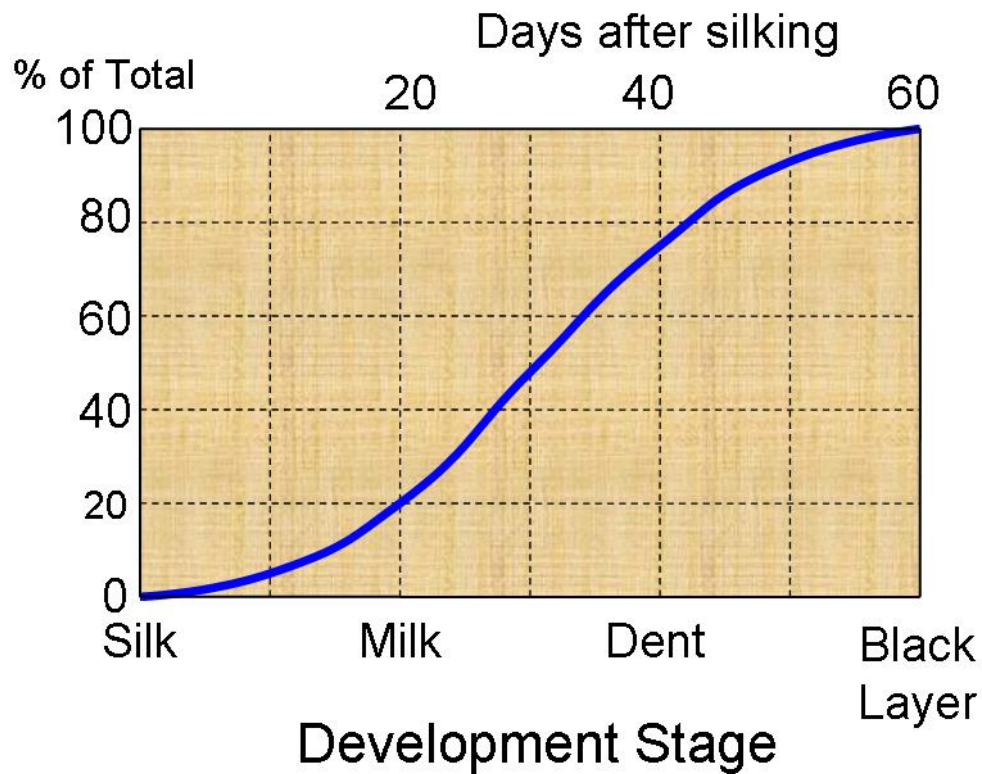


Figure 1. Corn grain weight accumulation during reproductive growth stages.

Check the “Milk-line” Development - The most reliable method for corn producers to monitor kernel maturity for irrigation scheduling purposes is to observe progression of the milk-line between dent stage and black-layer. The milk-line is more relevant than the black-layer (Figure 3), because it indicates when physiological maturity will occur, before the black layer forms. The milk-line is the borderline between the bright, clear yellow color of the hard seed coat outside the hard starch layer, compared to the milky, dull yellow color of the soft seed coat adjacent the dough layer (Figure 2). To observe the milk line, break a corn ear in half and observe the cross-section of the top half of the ear (the flat side of kernels opposite the embryo). If this color difference is not plainly visible, you can find it by pressing your fingernail into the soft, doughy seed, starting at the kernel base and repeating this procedure progressively toward the tip, until you feel the hard starch layer.



Figure 2. Photo showing a cross-section of an ear of corn with the milk-line advanced half-way down the kernels. This corn is about 10 days from physiological maturity and needs moisture to fill seed weight during this period.

Corn Kernel Maturation - Hard starch develops initially at the outside tip of the kernel and this transition and shrinkage associated with moisture loss causes the dent to form. This hard starch development gradually progresses towards the kernel base as kernels mature. It generally takes about 20 days for the milk-line to progress from the kernel tip, down to the base, where the black-layer forms (Figures 3 and 4). Growers can use this guideline to estimate the approximate maturity date. For instance, if the milk-line is half-way down the kernels, it will take about another 10 days to reach physiological maturity. Thus, the field needs supplemental irrigation water to supply moisture for 10 more days.



Figure 3. The “black layer” develops when hard starch development is complete and the kernel is physiologically mature.

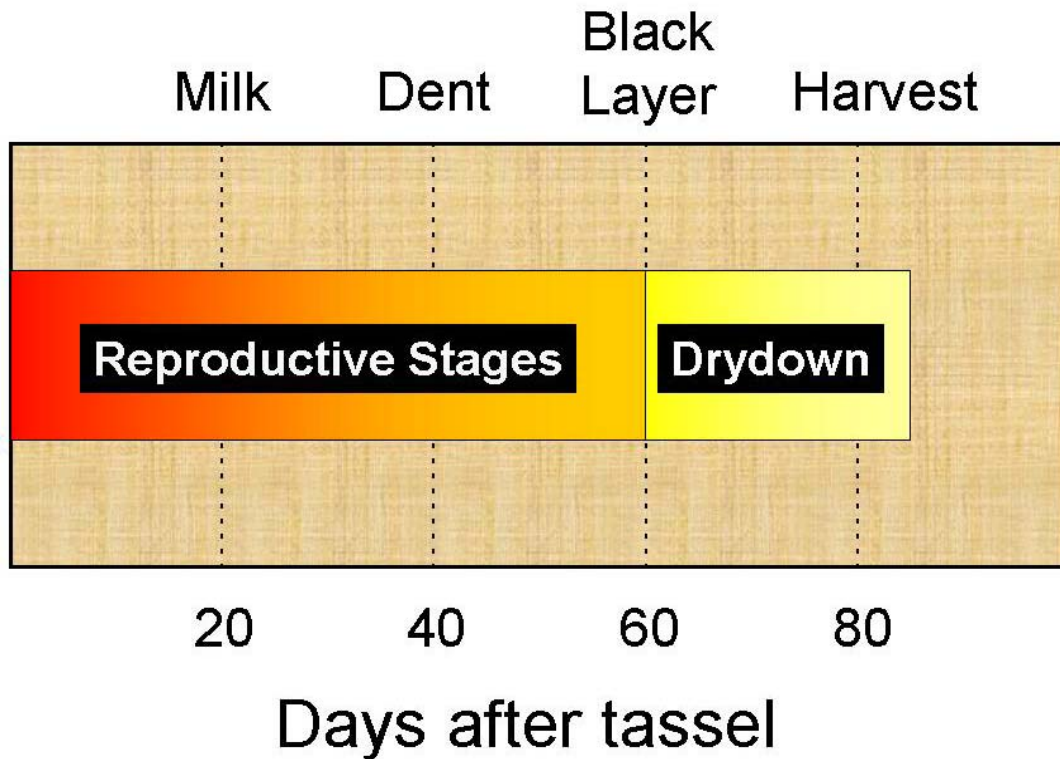


Figure 4. Normal sequence of corn reproductive development stages and moisture dry-down as corn approaches harvest.

Reduced Water Demand – Corn moisture requirement will steadily drop from a peak of 1.5-1.75 inches per week at the dough stage (four weeks post tasseling) to an inch or less per week after dent. However, high evaporation rates during late July generally often counterbalance the reduced water use by corn plants to some degree. Thus, insufficient irrigation water and/or slight delays can quickly reduce yield potential and evaporate profitability. Most importantly, growers should continue supplying irrigation water until the kernels reach physiological maturity. Furrow irrigation intervals may be extended, and pivot irrigation volume limited to adjust for reduced corn water use during late growth stages.

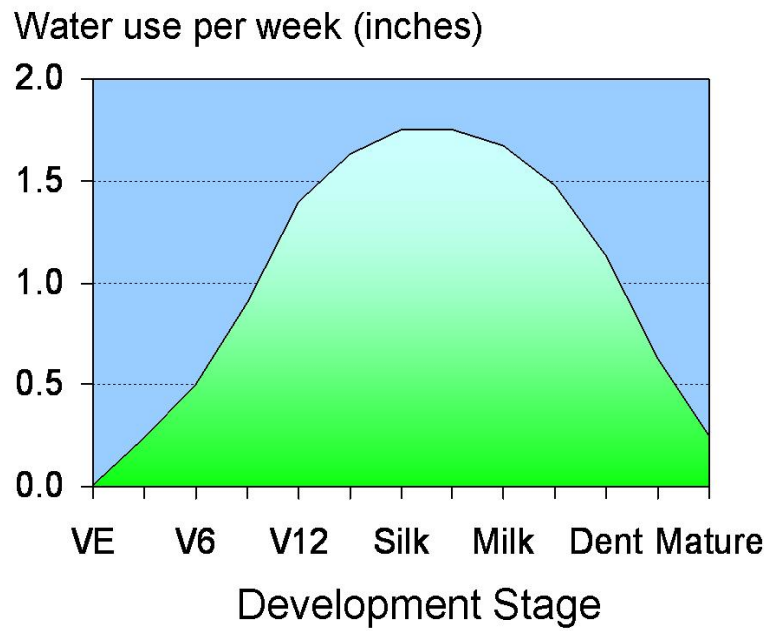


Figure 5. Corn water use during the growing season.

Grain Sorghum Irrigation - Although grain sorghum is very drought-tolerant, it will respond well to supplemental irrigation during droughty conditions. These characteristics make grain sorghum well suited for limited irrigation. Grain sorghum is most dependent upon moisture around the boot stage. The boot stage is characterized by the head swelling inside the flag leaf sheath, immediately prior to heading. Grain sorghum water use is maximized from rapid vegetative growth stages through the soft dough stage. Water use during this time typically peaks at about 1.5 inches per week. Water use rapidly declines after the soft dough stage – which is normally about two weeks after half-bloom. A furrow-irrigation application just prior to the boot stage, followed by another at bloom (if needed) should provide nearly the entire grain sorghum yield potential of full irrigation. Center-pivot irrigation systems however typically require numerous applications since total water volume is only about one-third that of a single furrow irrigation event. Irrigation beyond soft dough stage is not generally necessary, because crop water use is rapidly declining and sorghum’s inherent drought tolerance.



Peanuts

Mr. Michael Howell

Peanuts are pegging nicely and some of the earliest crop is beginning to set pods. There are still a few weed issues in some of the dryer areas that need to be addressed, and disease pressure is still very low at this point. We are beginning to get some rains in some of the drier areas which will allow disease to start developing. Make sure that you stay on top of your disease program, no matter if you are on a full season spray schedule or a reduced schedule, and make adjustments based on weather conditions in your area.

Insect numbers are higher than we are accustomed to seeing in peanuts at this time of year. Foliage feeders including cutworms, bud/bollworms, and the armyworm complex are in many fields at this time. Several fields have been treated across the state in the past week, and larvae can be found in most fields. Threshold for these insects is 6 larvae per foot of row. Make sure that you identify the larvae properly before treatment. If you are dealing with the armyworm complex, Intrepid is one option to consider. This product has just received a label in peanuts, so we have not looked at it extensively in peanuts to this point. At the labeled rate of **6 oz./acre**, we should expect excellent control and several weeks of residual based on the products performance in other crops. If we are dealing with cutworms, Intrepid may still be an option. Dr. Jack Reed had good results in a test in sweet potatoes in 2006, however there is no data on cutworms in peanuts.

Do not treat cutworms with a pyrethroid. We had complete failure from this chemistry in 2006, and they did not work in the one field that I know was treated with them this year. I have heard good results from Steward, and Tracer should have activity on these pests. In the fields I visited this week, the predominant moth flying was budworm moths. If you are dealing with this pest, Steward or Tracer are effective treatments. Lannate will also give good control, but is harder on beneficials. As corn begins to mature, I would expect this population to shift more to Bollworms. If you know that you are dealing with a bollworm infestation, a pyrethroid would give effective control.

Don't just look for foliage loss when scouting for Budworms. We are getting reports from Georgia that budworms are feeding on the blooms, as can be seen in the two photos, with little damage to the leaves. This is especially important as we are entering peak bloom for much of the crop.

Three cornered alfalfa hoppers continue to build in many areas. This insect will girdle the limbs of the peanut similar to how it damages soybeans early in the season. It may also feed on pegs. When this insect begins to girdle the limbs, damage can be detected quickly. The limbs above the girdle will turn a purple color that can be seen from some distance away. At this point,



damage still appears to be minimal. Until we learn more about this pest in peanuts, I am basing treatment decisions on the amount of damage and number of insects in the field. There are currently field trials in place in Lucedale and Stoneville to help us better understand this pest and when to treat.

Soybean Insects

Dr. Gordon Andrews

The following tables 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. At this time two things seem to stand out from these data. Plots where the insecticide application was made at R-3 have lower but increasing insect populations. Three cornered alfalfa hoppers took a giant step forward this week (July 7-11).

Test 1

Date	Growth Stage	GSB ³		BSB ⁴		3CAHA ⁵		3CAHI ⁶		LFB ⁷		GH ⁸		LFC ⁹	
		T1 ¹	T2 ²	T1	T2	T1	T2	T1	T2	T1	T2	T1	T2	T1	T2
6/10/2008	R-2	0	7	1	1	0	5	0	0	4	2	0	3	4	4
6/17/2008	R-3	0	4	2	2	1	2	0	0	8	8	1	4	3	3
Insecticide app. on 6/17/2008 of 1 lb AI Orthene/acre to treatment 2 (after sample)															
6/24/2008	R-4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	17	6	3	0	2	0
7/1/2008	R-4	0	0	0	0	9	5	0	0	20	19	3	0	1	0
7/8/2008	R-5	0	0	1	0	25	17	0	0	16	6	5	2	3	0

Test 2

Date	Growth Stage	GSB ³		BSB ⁴		3CAHA ⁵		3CAHI ⁶		LFB ⁷		GH ⁸		LFC ⁹	
		T1 ¹	T2 ²	T1	T2	T1	T2	T1	T2	T1	T2	T1	T2	T1	T2
6/18/2008	R-3	0	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	38	25	0	0	0	0
6/25/2008	R-3	0	1	0	2	3	4	0	0	48	52	0	0	0	1
Insecticide app. on 6/25/2008 of 0.025 lbs AI Mustang Maxx/acre to treatment 2 (after sample)															
7/1/2008	R-3	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	15	8	3	0	2	0
7/9/2008	R-4	0	0	1	0	30	14	0	0	30	20	1	0	5	1

Test 3

Date	Growth Stage	GSB ³		BSB ⁴		3CAHA ⁵		3CAHI ⁶		LFB ⁷		GH ⁸		LFC ⁹	
		T1 ¹	T2 ²	T1	T2	T1	T2	T1	T2	T1	T2	T1	T2	T1	T2
6/26/2008	R-3	0	4	1	1	3	4	0	0	8	23	2	0	0	1
Insecticide app. on 6/26/2008 of 0.02 lbs AI Baythroid XL/acre to treatment 2 (after sample)															
7/2/2008	R-4	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	38	8	2	0	2	0
7/10/2008	R-5	0	0	1	0	20	3	1	0	47	27	2	0	7	0

¹T1=treatment 1

²T2=treatment 2

³GSB=Green stinkbugs/100 sweeps

⁴BSB=Brown stinkbugs/100 sweeps

⁵3CAHA=Three cornered alfalfa hopper adults/100 sweeps

⁶3CAHI= Three cornered alfalfa hopper immatures/100 sweeps

⁷LFB=Leaf feeding beetles/100 sweeps (includes spotted and banded cucumber beetles, bean leaf beetles, and grape colapis)

⁸GH=Grasshoppers/100 sweeps

⁹LFC=Leaf feeding caterpillars/100 sweeps (to date includes green clover worms, alfalfa caterpillar, loopers, and salt marsh caterpillars)

Northeast MS Update

Dr. Don Cook

Many cotton fields have moderate to large infestations of aphids. Some fields have been treated for plant bugs. A few fields in Monroe County have moderate spider mite injury. The area has received some rainfall and mite numbers have decreased.



Three-cornered alfalfa hopper and bean leaf beetle numbers in soybeans are low to moderate. These seem to be remaining steady.

Southwestern corn borer numbers in pheromone traps have been highly variable. One area near Caledonia has some of the highest trap counts in Northeast Mississippi. We have found some egg masses in fields in that area and in one field near Ecu.

Market Briefs

Dr. John Anderson

Corn: The corn market this week has posted its worst weekly performance in a long time. After finishing the week last week at about \$7.60, September corn had fallen to \$6.86 ½ by the close of business yesterday, mostly owing to sharp losses on Monday and Tuesday. So far, activity in the corn market looks like a pretty normal correction following the strong weather-driven rally over the month of June. A return to favorable weather in the Midwest and stabilizing (even slightly improving) crop conditions have worked to pull prices from recent record levels.

This week's corn trade also reflected positioning in advance of today's World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report. Pre-report expectations were for an upward adjustment in 2007/08 ending stocks projections. In fact, in this morning's report, ending stocks for the current marketing year were raised to 1.598 billion bushels, an increase of 165 million bushels from last month's estimate. This reflects a 100 million bushel drop in projected feed use, a 50 million bushel drop in projected ethanol use, and a 15 million bushel drop in other food and industrial uses. June's surge in prices appears to have led to greater rationing of available corn supplies from about all segments of demand. The increase in ending stocks projections was on the high side of market expectations and will likely keep some pressure on the market, though weather and crop progress will quickly return to the center of the market's attention.

Soybeans: Soybean futures felt the pressure of outside markets early this week, dropping sharply on Monday and Tuesday along with corn and other commodity prices. Soybeans recovered nicely on Wednesday and Thursday, though, as the market appeared to be positioning for favorable news in the WASDE report. In fact, Friday's report was largely favorable for soybean prices. Ending stock projections for 2007/08 were unchanged at 125 million bushels.

The 2008/09 balance sheet, though, looks considerably tighter than last month. Based on the June Acreage report, the estimate of harvested acres was dropped by 1.7 million acres from last month, to 72.1 million. Yield projections were also dropped by half a bushel from last month. The net effect is that projections for 2008/09 production are down by 105 million bushels from last month. This more than offsets downward revisions in domestic crush and exports and leaves 2008/09 carryover projections at just 140 million bushels. Looking ahead, all of these figures were pretty well in line with pre-report expectations. In fact, 2007/08 carryover was widely expected to decline by considerably more than it did. This should limit the upside impact of the report on the market.

Wheat: Wheat futures have also fallen this week, pulled lower by corn futures as well as by continuing harvest pressure as the wheat harvest surpassed the 50% mark nationally last week. USDA raised their estimate of wheat production in this month's WASDE report, reflecting mostly higher-than-expected soft red wheat production. Total production for 2008/09 is estimated at 2.461 billion bushels, up from 2.432 billion bushels last month. Ending stocks estimates were raised to 537 million bushels, up from 487 million bushels last month. These figures are pretty much in line with pre-report expectations and should therefore be viewed as more-or-less neutral by the market.

2008 Budworm/Bollworm Trap Captures

Pheromone Traps Captures – Don Cook, Chris Daves, and Fred Musser. Week of July 7, 2008.

County	This week last year Bollworm	Bollworm	This week last year Budworm	Budworm	Beet Armyworm
Calhoun	--	2	--	0	77
Chickasaw	19	5	0	--	62
Hinds	24	15	0	1	0
Lafayette	--	38	--	0	1
Lee	9	29	8	4	3
Lowndes	38	3	0	2	3
Madison	5	5	2	0	8
Monroe	--	4	--	52	7
Noxubee	12	5	1	8	0
Oktibbeha	--	23	--	1	4
Pontotoc	--	10	--	5	1
Prentiss	0	6	3	2	4
Rankin	--	8	--	8	5
Scott	--	4	--	5	0
Union	0	2	14	3	3
Warren	--	22	--	0	3
Webster	--	18	--	0	2

Ryan Jackson USDA Trap line

July 7, 2008

County	This Week last Year Bollworm	Bollworm	This Week last Year Budworm	Budworm	BAW
Washington	30	14	0	0	-
Sharkey	10	56	0	0	-
Humphreys	62	53	0	0	-
Yazoo	25	11	0	0	-
Holmes	14	15	0	1	-
Leflore	50	40	2	1	-
Tallahatchie	24	12	0	4	-
Coahoma	42	190	0	2	-
Bolivar	10	92	0	0	-
Sunflower	114	34	0	6	-

2008 Southwestern Corn Borer

Southwestern Corn Borer - Chris Daves - July 3-9, 2008

County	Avg/Trap	County	Avg/Trap
Adams	0	Monroe	8
Attala	-	Montgomery	1
Calhoun	26	Noxubee	7
Carroll	75	Panola	161
Chickasaw	3	Pearl River	0
Clay	5	Perry	0
Coahoma	70	Pontotoc	59
Covington	0	Quitman	104
DeSoto	46	Rankin	2
Forrest	0	Scott	2
George	0	Sharkey	0
Grenada	24	Simpson	0
Hinds	0	Sunflower	11
Holmes	-	Tate	380
Humphreys	14	Tunica	13
Issaquena	1	Union	10
Leake	-	Warren	1
Lee	14	Washington	173
Leflore	81	Yalobusha	-
Madison	6	Yazoo	215

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