



# UGA extension

Ag Notes | Webster County and Stewart County | September 2017

## Dates to Remember

September 6  
UGA Cotton and  
Peanut Research Field  
Day  
Tifton, GA

September 9  
UGA @ Notre Dame  
South Bend, IN  
(I'll be the one in red.)

September 19 – 20  
Georgia Grazing  
School  
Athens, GA

October 17 – 19  
Sunbelt Ag Expo  
Moultrie, GA

October 21  
Webster County 4-H  
Fall Carnival  
Preston, GA

## Peanut Update

By Dr. Laura A. Griffeth, *County Extension Coordinator*

It's almost that time – football is starting, schools are back in session, and harvest is fast approaching. One of the key factors of a successful harvest is timeliness, which is art as much as it is science. It may be a little easier to see in cotton when deciding when to defoliate and later pick. But it's hard to see if those peanuts are ready when they under the ground and in the shell. With the extreme variability of maturity dates between peanut varieties, it is more critical than ever to sample and evaluate peanut maturity early.

Our peanut agronomist, Dr. Scott Monfort, reported checking 115-120 day old dryland peanuts which were already coming loose in the shell. I have a pressure washer and a maturity board and can help you sort through some of the factors affecting your decision to dig. Also included in this newsletter is a Peanut Maturity Chart which can be used to look at maturity dates and an electronic version of our Peanut Profile Board we use after blasting the peanuts. I will be in Preston Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, September 5 and 6, before heading to South Bend, Indiana to watch the University of Georgia Bulldogs take on the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame, but I will be around for most of the month of September. Please bring your samples and let's look at where you stand. Also below is a refresher on the sampling procedure necessary when blasting peanuts.

Carefully lift at least 5 plants from a minimum of three representative areas in a field to get the sample. **DIG IN THE AREA WHERE THE PLANTS WERE LIFTED AND CHECK FOR ANY PEANUTS THAT COME OFF.** If you find some older mature pods in the soil, bring these with the sample. The projected digging date is only as accurate as the sample used to represent the field. Once the plants are collected in the field, select individual plants and pick off all nuts on each plant until there are approximately 200 to 220 nuts for the actual hull scrape sample. This sample will be pressure blasted and checked on the peanut maturity profile board. This process has proven to be an effective and reliable method to project up to two weeks in advance the optimum digging date for peanuts.

Peanut Maturity Range**		
Medium		Medium-Late
Georgia-06G	Georgia-09B	Georgia-12Y
Georgia Greener	Georgia-16HO	Georgia-13M
FloRun 107	FloRun 157	*Georgia-14N (late)
TUFRunner 297	TUFRunner 511	Florida-07
Tifguard		

\*\*Range may vary depending on planting date, rainfall, soil temperature, and other factors even for the same variety in a given year.

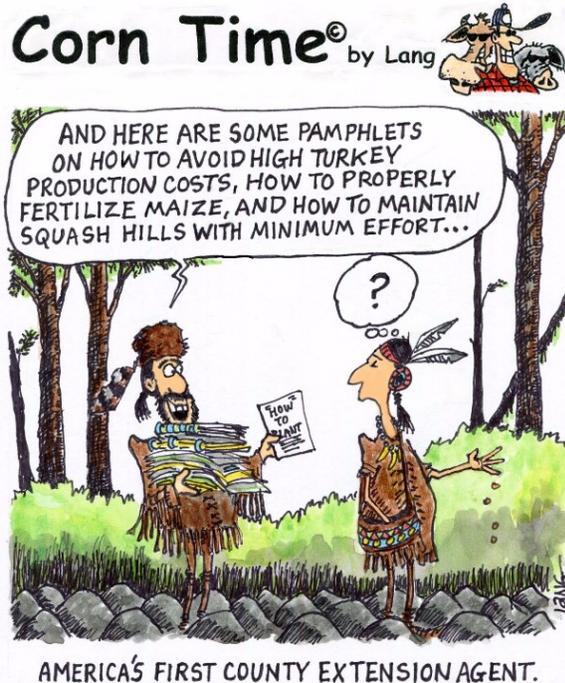
# Row Crop Disease Update

By Dr. Bob Kemeraït, *Extension Plant Pathologist*

**PEANUTS:** White mold, leaf spot and CBR are diseases that are popping up. Generally, crops with more than 3 weeks to go should still be managed for white mold. Crops with more than 2 weeks to go should be managed for leaf spot. Note: "Managed" does not necessarily mean "sprayed". Here "managed" means "assessed for disease with appropriate actions taken".

**COTTON:** We continue to find more target spot on cotton; however, as the crop continues to develop, I think there is little reason to apply a fungicide after the 6th week of bloom. Either the disease has already caused too much damage or there is not enough time for it to get started. I know there is some bacterial blight out there, but I don't know of more than a small handful of fields where I think it might have any impact on yield. We are seeing a number of fields with areolate (false) mildew. Symptoms look a lot like "powdery mildew" on other crops. The white sporulation is typically on the bottom of the leaf and the disease may cause a distinct "rolling" of the severely affected leaves followed by significant and rapid defoliation.

**SOYBEANS:** Asian soybean rust continues to march across Mississippi and Alabama, and we are finding it more frequently across Georgia. I believe that any soybeans in the state that have not reached full-pod (R4) growth stage of development are worth consideration for a fungicide application. Beans are susceptible to rust and other diseases until the full-seed (R6) growth stage, but most growers (except in the extreme south of the state) are likely safe after R4. We are also seeing quite a bit of "Cercospora stem blight" developing. It starts as a reddening/bronzing of the upper leaves and progresses to significant defoliation with only the petioles remaining; the petioles remind me of bony fingers pointed skyward.



## Winter Annual Budgets

Our new livestock economist Dr. Levi Russell updated the Winter Annual budgets for small grains. These are found in an Excel format on the Extension Ag Econ website at <http://www.caes.uga.edu/departments/ag-econ/extension/budgets.html>. This is actually where all the crop enterprise budgets are located.

## Amazing Weather Photographs

I know a lot of you really like watching the weather and enjoy seeing beautiful images. Below is a link to the finalists in the Royal Photographic Society's annual photo image contest reported in the *Daily Mail* from the UK. There is no way I could pick just one!! Maybe we could see one of your shots next year!

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/travel\\_news/article-4823502/Shortlist-Royal-Photographic-Society-s-weather-contest.html](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/travel_news/article-4823502/Shortlist-Royal-Photographic-Society-s-weather-contest.html)

## Contact the Extension Office

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# PEANUT PROFILE BOARD



## WHITE CLASS

White, soft, watery, easily smashed – match head size to full size. Pods will move through this class in 14-16 days.



## YELLOW 1 CLASS

Very light yellow begins to replace white in the saddle area and progresses over white until the entire scraped area appears light yellow. Pods are spongy when pressed between thumb and forefinger. Pods will move through this class in 10-14 days.

## YELLOW 2 CLASS

Dark yellow begins to replace light yellow in the saddle area and progresses over light yellow until the entire scraped area appears dark yellow. Pods are more rigid than yellow 1 and are becoming rough. In later stages, there is a crunchy sound as the pod is scraped. Pods will move through this class in 10-14 days.

## ORANGE CLASS

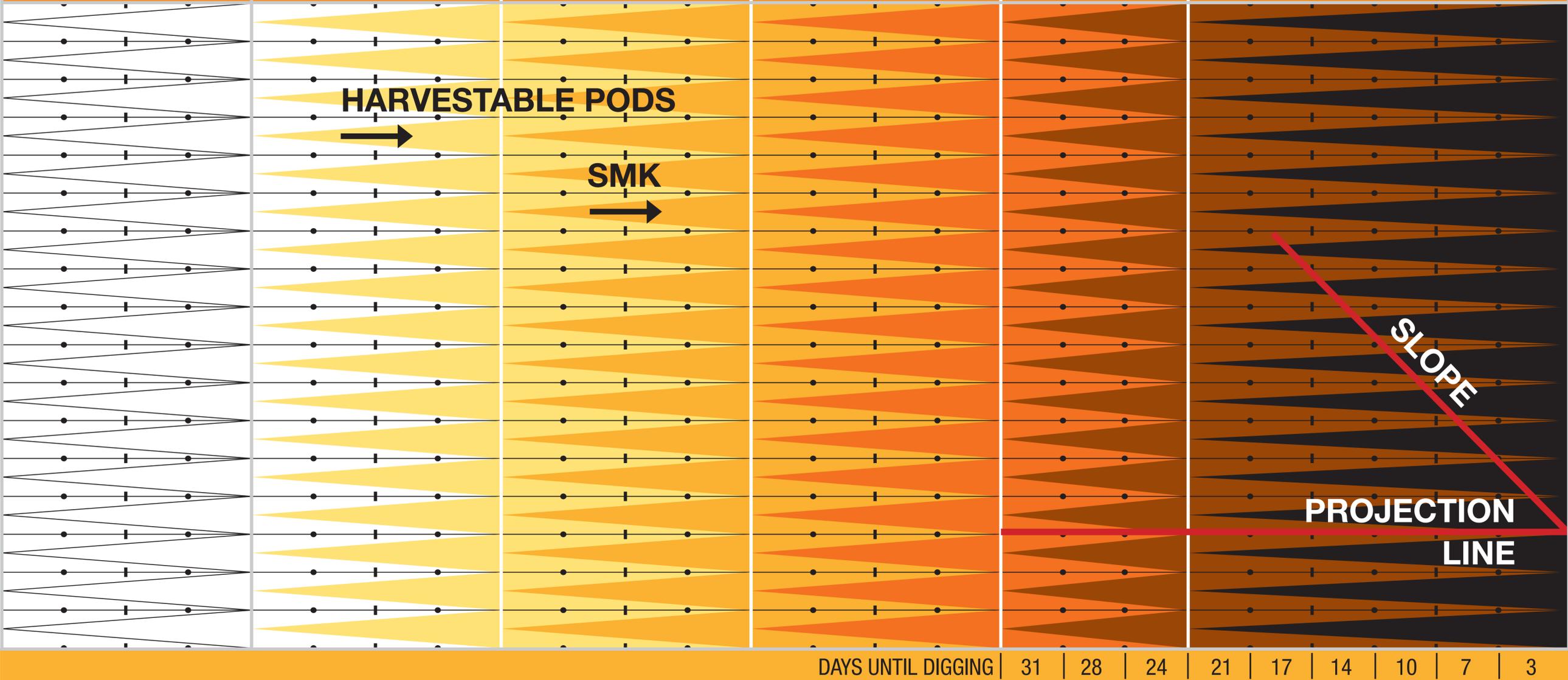
Orange or brownish-orange begins to replace dark yellow in the saddle area and progresses over dark yellow until the entire scraped area appears rusty-orange. Pods will move through this class in 12-14 days.

## BROWN CLASS

Reddish-brown or brown begins to replace rusty-orange in the saddle area and progresses over rusty-orange until the entire scraped area appears reddish-brown or brown. Pods will move through this class in 9-12 days.

## BLACK CLASS

Black begins to replace reddish-brown or brown in the saddle area and progresses over reddish-brown or brown until the entire scraped area appears black. Pods will move through this class in 19-21 days.



Research and Development by:



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**Peanut Maturity Calendar (Date of Indicated Days After Planting)**

Planting Date	Bloom	First Pegs	Critical pod-fill, water use, and white mold control period about 60 - 110 DAP				Hull scrape to estimated time to		*Typical maturity range for medium maturity varieties					*Increasing risk of over-maturity and pod loss		
			60	75	90	105	120	125	130	135	140	145	150	155	160	170
1-Apr	6-May	16-May	31-May	15-Jun	30-Jun	15-Jul	30-Jul	4-Aug	9-Aug	14-Aug	19-Aug	24-Aug	29-Aug	3-Sep	8-Sep	18-Sep
2-Apr	7-May	17-May	1-Jun	16-Jun	1-Jul	16-Jul	31-Jul	5-Aug	10-Aug	15-Aug	20-Aug	25-Aug	30-Aug	4-Sep	9-Sep	19-Sep
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4-Apr	9-May	19-May	3-Jun	18-Jun	3-Jul	18-Jul	2-Aug	7-Aug	12-Aug	17-Aug	22-Aug	27-Aug	1-Sep	6-Sep	11-Sep	21-Sep
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6-Apr	11-May	21-May	5-Jun	20-Jun	5-Jul	20-Jul	4-Aug	9-Aug	14-Aug	19-Aug	24-Aug	29-Aug	3-Sep	8-Sep	13-Sep	23-Sep
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10-Jun	15-Jul	25-Jul	9-Aug	24-Aug	8-Sep	23-Sep	8-Oct	13-Oct	18-Oct	23-Oct	28-Oct	2-Nov	7-Nov	12-Nov	17-Nov	27-Nov

## **Peanut Fungicide Termination Ideas**

**By Dr. Bob Kemeraït, Extension Plant Pathologist**

REVISED 31 August 2017

NOTE: A critical consideration late in the season is that pre-harvest intervals (PHI) vary with some of the fungicides. For example, I believe Alto has a 30 day PHI, and I think Convoy has a 40 day PHI, compared to 14 day PHI for most fungicides that I know of. Growers must always check the label to make sure on all of these.

Below are some typical situations that peanut growers may find themselves in and suggestions for control.

1. Grower is 4 or more weeks away from harvest and currently has excellent disease control.
  1. Suggestion – I recommend the grower apply at least one more fungicide at least for leaf spot control.
  2. Suggestion – Given the low cost of tebuconazole, the grower may consider applying a tank-mix of tebuconazole + chlorothalonil for added insurance of white mold and leaf spot.
  3. NOTE: If white mold is not an issue, then the grower should stick with a leaf spot spray only.
2. Grower is 4 or more weeks away from harvest and has disease problems in the field.
  1. If the problem is with leaf spot – Grower should insure that any fungicide applied has systemic/curative activity. If a grower wants to use chlorothalonil, then they would mix a product like thiophanate methyl (Topsin M) or cyproconazole (Alto) with the chlorothalonil. Others may consider applying Priaxor, if they have not already applied Priaxor twice earlier in the season.
  2. If the problem is white mold – Grower should continue with fungicide applications for management of white mold. If they have completed their regular white mold program, then they should extend the program, perhaps with a tebuconazole/chlorothalonil mix. If the grower is unhappy with the level of control from their fungicide program, then we can offer alternative fungicides to apply.
  3. If the problem is underground white mold – Underground white mold is difficult to control. Applying a white mold fungicide ahead of irrigation or rain, or applying at night, can help to increase management of this disease.
3. Grower is 3 or less weeks away from projected harvest and does not currently have a disease issue. Good news! This grower should be good-to-go for the remainder of the season and no more fungicides are required. SEE NOTE BELOW ABOUT HURRICANES
4. Grower is 3 or less weeks away from harvest and has a problem with disease.
  1. If leaf spot is a problem and 2-3 weeks away from harvest, a last leaf spot fungicide application may be beneficial. If leaf spot is too severe, then a last application will not help. Tank mixing chlorothalonil with a systemic fungicide, like thiophanate methyl or other appropriate systemic fungicide, could be beneficial.
  2. If white mold is a problem and harvest is 3 weeks away, then it is likely beneficial to apply a final white mold fungicide. If harvest is 2 weeks or less away, then it is unlikely that a fungicide will be of any benefit.
  3. NOTE: If harvest is likely to be delayed by threat from a hurricane or tropical storm, then the grower may reconsider recommendations for end-of-season fungicide applications.

## Cotton Scouting – Whitefly and Stink Bugs

Phillip Edwards and Dr. Laura A. Griffeth, County Extension Coordinators, Irwin and Webster/Stewart/Quitman Counties  
2017 Cotton Production Guide

Whitefly issues continue all over south Georgia. Later planted cotton can have premature defoliation if not addressed. Earlier cotton and soon boll opening can have honeydew accumulation and lint staining from heavy whitefly pressure. As a reminder here is the scouting procedure. Scout 30 leaves at the 5th leaf down from terminal by turning the leaf over and counting whiteflies on the underside. Threshold is five or more immatures on half of leaves sampled. See attached flyer for specific information and insecticide options. Whiteflies can also affect soybean. In soybean, you reached threshold if 50% of fully expanded trifoliolate leaves are infested with immatures.

Growers need to be scouting for stinkbugs and stinkbug damage. The dynamic threshold is based on the week of bloom. If damage meets the threshold, then a treatment decision should be made, but you must consider other insect pests in the field. Spider mites and whiteflies are already present in some cotton fields. Consider each cotton field's current insect situation when making an insecticide choice. If you are spraying for whiteflies and are NOT at stinkbug thresholds, then don't add a pyrethroid. If you are at stinkbug threshold, then add the pyrethroid (use high rates if you have brown stinkbugs). Treatment with organophosphate insecticides such as Bidrin for stinkbug control should be avoided if whiteflies and/or spider mites are present. Use of organophosphates and pyrethroids can flare other insect pests in the field. Be cautious. Don't forget when scouting cotton to be on the lookout for corn earworm larvae and eggs in and on blooms and bloom tags.

### Terminating Insecticide Applications

When evaluating a field a grower must first identify the last boll population which will significantly contribute to yield (bolls which you plan to harvest). In some situations the last population of bolls which you will harvest is easy to see (i.e. cotton which is loaded and cutout). In others, such as late planted cotton, the last population of bolls you will harvest will be determined by weather factors (the last bloom you expect to open and harvest based on heat unit accumulation). Once the last boll population is determined the boll development or approximate boll age should be estimated. Depending on the insect pest, bolls are relatively safe from attack at varying stages of boll development.

The table below list approximate boll age in days which bolls should be protected for selected insect pests. Cooler temperatures will slow plant development and subsequent boll age values may increase in such environments. It is assumed that the field is relatively insect pest free when the decision to terminate insecticide applications for a pest is made.

<b>Insect Pest(s)</b>	<b>Approx. Boll Age (days)</b>
Corn Earworm Tobacco Budworm	18-20 bolls fully sized
Stink Bugs	25
Fall Armyworm	bolls near maturity
Foliage Feeders soybean looper beet armyworm southern armyworm	bolls mature
Sucking Insects whiteflies aphids	harvest (honeydew accumulation on lint)

## **Cotton Defoliation**

### **2017 Cotton Production Guide**

Timing of defoliation is critical to insure optimum yield and fiber quality. Several factors can be used to determine the proper time for harvest aid application. The first is the traditional method of counting open and unopen bolls. Defoliation should proceed when least 60 to 75 percent of bolls are open. This method focuses primarily on the "open" portion of the bolls while ignoring the "unopen" portion, which is also important. A second indicator involves slicing bolls with a sharp knife. Bolls are considered mature--and ready for harvest aid applications--when bolls cannot be sliced without "stringing" the lint. In addition, bolls are mature when the seed embryo contains only tiny folded leaves (no "jelly" within the developing seed) and the seedcoat begins to turn yellow or tan. A final method utilized to determine crop maturity is counting nodes above cracked boll (NACB). NACB is determined by counting the number of nodes separating the uppermost first position cracked boll and the uppermost boll that is expected to be harvested. Once the NACB has reached 4, it is generally safe to apply harvest aids. In some cases, when plant populations are low, a NACB of 3 maybe more appropriate. Growers should understand that each method of determining defoliation timing considers different plant characteristics; therefore the use of a combination of these methods would more accurately depict maturity of plants and provide a better indication for optimal defoliation timing.

#### Harvest Aid Functions

There are four basic functions of harvest aids when applied to cotton. Each process may or may not be required to prepare cotton harvest. An understanding is needed of these processes in order to properly determine products and rates to be chosen.

1. Removal of Mature Foliage
2. Removal of Juvenile Foliage
3. Boll Opening
4. Regrowth Suppression

The first two functions are considered to be involved with defoliation. Defoliation or leaf abscission is a natural plant process. The problem is this natural leaf drop does not occur simultaneously throughout the plant canopy or in time to effectively facilitate mechanical harvest. Therefore, producers must manipulate the plant to drop its leaves in a relatively short period of time.

While the leaf abscission process is quite complex, it can be simplified as being governed by two major hormones within the plant, auxin and ethylene. Auxin is a growth-promoting hormone that stimulates leaf growth and development. Ethylene can be classified as a senescence or ripening hormone that causes leaf drop. Leaves fall from the plant once ethylene moves from the leaf blade to the base of the petiole and stimulates the formation of an abscission layer. The amount of auxin or ethylene present in the leaves of the cotton plant is related to leaf age. Younger leaves have a more elevated level of auxin, while older leaves have lower levels of auxin and higher levels of ethylene. This is why older leaves are more conditioned for defoliation than younger leaves. Furthermore, because of the hormone balance of younger leaves, low rates of harvest aids often have no effect, and higher rates may actually kill the leaf, leading to desiccation and leaf sticking. Eventually, almost all the leaves on a cotton plant age so they will abscise naturally. However, producers can manipulate these hormone levels so all the leaves abscise at the same time. When harvest-aids are applied, ethylene levels artificially increase so the abscission process begins.

All cotton harvest-aids can be classified into two modes of action, herbicidal and hormonal. Herbicidal harvest-aids injure the leaf, stimulating the production of ethylene (tribufos [Folex]), and include PPO Inhibitors (Aim, ET, Blizzard, etc.). Hormonal harvest-aids increase the ethylene concentration in the leaves without causing any injury (ethephon [various brands] and products containing thidiazuron (Dropp, Freefall, etc). Product selection and application rates should be adjusted to match environmental conditions as they change during the harvest season in order to reduce occurrence of leaf desiccation.

### Defoliant Applications

Most harvest aid materials do not translocate or move very far within the plant. Therefore, application coverage is important. To ensure adequate foliar coverage, use the proper spray pressure, ground speed, and nozzle size in order to apply the desired spray volume in accordance of label instructions.

**WATER VOLUME CAN SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACT OVERALL PERFORMANCE, THE MORE WATER THE BETTER (SHOOT FOR 15 GPA)**

Be sure to consider harvest when making defoliant applications and treat enough acres to anticipate harvesting the crop 10 to 14 days after application. Leaf drop should start in about four days and be complete in about 10 days. Rainfall occurring after applications can affect defoliant activity. Be sure to consider weather forecasts when making applications and pay attention to rain-free periods of particular products. Thidiazuron is of particular concern, since it requires a 24 hour rain-free period. Information on particular products and rain-free intervals, optimum temperatures for activity, and relative product performance can be found in the 2014 Mid-South Cotton Defoliation Guide (by D. Dodds, D. Reynolds, L. Barber and T. Raper) at [http://www.mississippi-crops.com/wpcontent/uploads/2014/09/2014-Cotton-Defoliation-Guide\\_Final.pdf](http://www.mississippi-crops.com/wpcontent/uploads/2014/09/2014-Cotton-Defoliation-Guide_Final.pdf).

In 2016, issues regarding adequate defoliation occurred when proper products, rates, and applications were implemented. Every situation is different, but many of these cases were related to the dry conditions followed by some rainfall from the tropical systems resulting in a “dryland switch” which prevented defoliant from reaching deep into the canopy. Where excessive regrowth has already occurred, defoliation can be difficult and may require follow-up applications (or preconditioning). In other cases, the dry conditions affected the effectiveness of defoliants (especially hormonal) as plants were suffering from extreme moisture deficit stress. In either case, normally excellent treatments were less than adequate and showed examples of why time should be spent assessing the condition of the crop and the effectiveness of defoliants each year to ensure desired results.

A detailed discussion of crop maturity determinations, timing of application, and harvest-aid chemicals can be found in Extension Bulletin 1239 “Cotton Defoliation, Harvest Aids, and Crop Maturity”. This publication is available on-line via the UGA cotton web page at [www.ugacotton.com](http://www.ugacotton.com).

A full listing from the Georgia Pest Management Handbook of chemicals and rate for defoliation are available on our website at [www.ugaextension.com/webster](http://www.ugaextension.com/webster) or stop by our office for a copy.

## Red Banded Stink Bug (Pest Alert)

Phillip Roberts, Extension Entomologist



*Adult and immature redbanded stink bugs*

**REDBANDED STINK BUGS ARE MORE DAMAGING TO SOYBEAN** compared with stink bugs we normally encounter in Georgia soybean. Unfortunately we are observing redbanded stink bugs in some soybean fields (see photo left). Photo by Angus Catchot. The threshold for redbanded stink bug is lower than that we use for commonly encountered stink bugs in Georgia. Insecticides are also different (see bottom of page).

**Proper identification of stink bugs will be important.** Southern green, green, and brown stink bugs are the most common stink bugs observed infesting soybeans in Georgia (photos by Herb Pilcher, ipmimages.org).



*Southern green stink bug adults*



*Southern green stink bug nymph*



*Green stink bug nymph*



*Brown stink bug adults*



*Brown stink bug nymph*

<i>Redbanded Stink Bugs</i>	Insecticide	Amount of Formulation per Acre	Pounds Active Ingredient per Acre	Acres 1 Gallon or 1 Pound Dry Will Treat	PHI (days)	Comments
	acephate (OP) Orthene 90S	0.56–1.1 lb	0.56–1.1	0.5–1.0	14	Do not harvest for hay or forage. Apply by air at 5–10 GPA and by ground at 10–50 GPA. Maximum AI per acre per season: 1.5 lb.
bifenthrin (P) Brigade 2EC Discipline 2EC	2.1–6.4 oz 2.1–6.4 oz	0.033–0.10 0.033–0.10	61–20 61–20	18 18	Do not apply more than one time per 30-day interval. Do not apply within 18 days of harvest.	
clothianidin (CN) Belay 2.13	3–6 oz	0.05–0.1	43–21	21		
thiamethoxam (CN), λ-cyhalothrin (P) Endigo ZC	3.5–4.5 oz	–	37–28	30		

**THRESHOLD:** Treat when numbers reach four bugs per 25 sweeps or two bugs per 6 feet of row with a drop cloth. Redbanded stink bugs can damage soybeans much later than green, brown, or southern green stink bugs. Beans must be protected through the R7 growth stage if numbers exceed 10 per 25 sweeps or harvest may be delayed. Read label to determine the preharvest interval.

*from 2017 Insect Control Guide for Agronomic Crops, Mississippi State University*



# Federal Action ALERT



## **Your action is needed to "Ditch the Rule" once and for all.**

In August 2014, Georgia Farm Bureau along with American Farm Bureau launched a nationwide "Ditch the Rule" campaign opposing EPA's Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule. Despite this nationwide effort and our members alone submitting over 15,000 letters of opposition, the WOTUS rule was enacted on August 28, 2015.

However, on October 9, 2015, we received a reprieve as the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals issued a temporary order prohibiting EPA from enforcing the WOTUS rule nationwide pending numerous lawsuits questioning its legality.

The recent change of administration has given us new hope to right the ship on private property rights and put an end to this overreach of federal government authority. On Thursday, July 27th EPA issued a proposed rule formally withdrawing the WOTUS rule. As when the rule was enacted, withdrawal requires an open comment period and vocal support for its removal. The deadline for comments is extended to Wednesday, September 27.

It is imperative that GFB members continue to fight for this rule's withdrawal. Our organization has been a leader in this effort because of the work of our county Farm Bureaus. **Please click below to send a pre-written letter voicing your support for the withdrawal of the WOTUS rule.**

**TAKE ACTION**

Thank you for your service to Georgia Farm Bureau. Together, we can ensure our private property rights are protected for generations to come.

GFB Public Policy Department



Click the link below to log in and send your message:

<https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/4sTZpQV8aW1oFftNuDiVTQ>