

*Watermelon Research**Wet Weather & Disease**Row Crop Update**Pecan Insect Pressure*

CRISP CO AG UPDATE

AUG 2018



Drone photo credit: Seth McAllister



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IMPORTANT DATES

Turfgrass Research Field Day

Aug 9, 2018

UGA Griffin campus

1109 Experiment St, Griffin, GA

Reg link: www.GeorgiaTurf.com**Row Crops Field Day**

Aug 15, 2018

SE GA Research & Education Center

9638 GA-56, Midville, GA

More Info: 478-589-7472

Farm Safety Program**Produce Safety Rule**

Aug 16, 2018

UGA Tifton Conference Center

15 RDC Rd, Tifton GA

Reg link: <http://bit.ly/psatift>**Crisp Co Young Farmers Meeting**

7p, Aug 16, 2018

Crisp Co High School

Pine Plantation Workshop

Aug 15-16, 2018

Bulloch Co Ag Center

151 Langston Chapel Rd,

Statesboro, GA

Reg link: conted.warnell.uga.edu**Cotton & Peanut Field Day**

Sep 5, 2018

UGA's Gibbs Farm

1392 Whiddon Mill Rd, Tifton, GA

RSVP Sep 2: 229-386-3006

CHLOROPICRIN AGAINST F. WILT

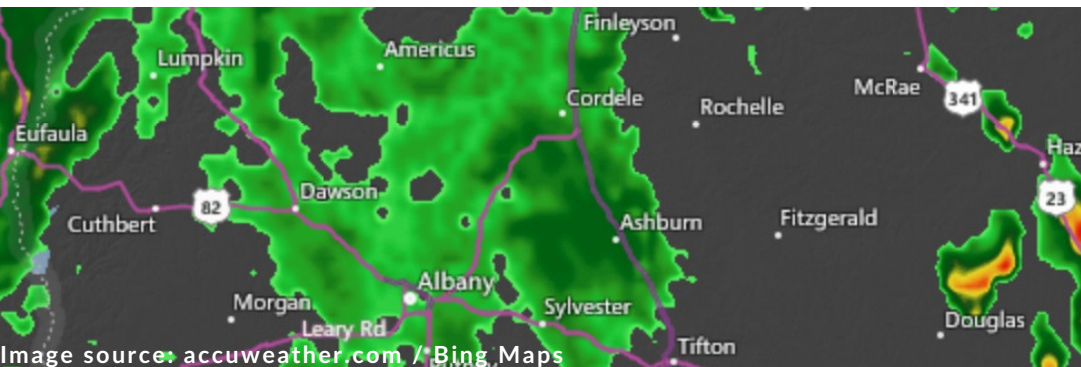
Watermelon Season Re-Cap

"Its time to go on vacation..." one producer said, another stated that "it was a struggle to keep the vines up and healthy enough till harvest was over." Quotes indicating that the watermelon season is finished up. Indeed, many fields are terminated and harrowed up. The conveyor belts in the packing sheds are empty and immobile. In this time of watermelon wind down, preliminary results of Fusarium wilt research have become clear.

It was a mixed bag for watermelon producers this year. Weak root systems and stem splits at transplant led many growers to reset more plants than usually. Historic rainfall which started with super-storm Alberto in late May left fields a muddy mess, slowed plant growth and kept producers from making timely pesticide sprays. The pre-July 4th market was high (20-24 cents/lb) but many struggled to hit that mark due to delayed watermelon maturity. Gummy stem blight, powdery mildew and fruit rot were predominant diseases found in many Crisp Co fields. The dreaded downy mildew was scouted early in the season in GA on cucumber and appeared on watermelon in counties surrounding Crisp later in the season. Among all these diseases, Fusarium wilt forms a backdrop of inevitability to the cornucopia of pathogens damaging this multi-million dollar industry. Watermelons, worth \$124.5 million in GA in 2015 have seen yield loss up to 69% due to F. wilt. This wilt is the common cold of the watermelon world. As such, it is first and foremost in the cross-hairs of research proposals and funding opportunities.

Studies on control of F. wilt have continued this year at Cordele's very own watermelon research station. The preliminary 2018 data show that fumigation with chloropicrin (pic 100) decreased F. wilt incidence in this trial. This is evidenced by the aerial photo above (taken at the research station) comparing canopy cover of non-fumigated (left) versus fumigated plots (right). The efficacy of various fungicides, run through drip tape, were also assessed in this study. Much detail has been left out here to remain succinct so please call me at the Crisp Co Extension office for further info.

WET FORECAST = DISEASE PRESSURE



PEANUTS, COTTON & SOYBEANS

Hot, wet and sometimes sunny weather means we're in a perfect environment for the growth of fungal pathogens in our fields.

For peanuts, this means white mold. "False white mold (FWM)," fungus *Phanerochaete*, is a look alike that should not be sprayed, its not damaging. Differences between the two fungi: no lesions form under FWM, it doesn't make BB-sized sclerotia and FWM will discolor, turning yellow-orange with age. Consultants, Peanut Rx and myself are sources for spray programs, timeliness is crucial for this disease and target spot in peanuts.

Cotton is seeing bacterial blight, susceptibility a varietal issue, which can't be controlled after planting. Target spot, not to be confused with *Stemphylium*, can hurt yields and scouting is necessary to make spray decisions. Chemicals such as Headline, Quadris and Elatus work well, most efficacious is Priaxor. Good news is that silver-leaf white flies have yet to be seen at threshold (stark comparison to 2017) and aphid populations have generally crashed by a naturally occurring black fuzzy fungus. Spray for stink bugs only at threshold to conserve beneficial insects.

Soybeans are seeing kudzu bugs up to moderate levels, red-banded stink bugs and some caterpillar pests. Scouting and spraying when at threshold is key. Lastly, soybean rust has been confirmed in SW GA on kudzu.



PECANS & THEIR INSECTS

For more info: blog.extension.uga.edu/pecan/

Pecan Weevil: monitor for pest now, observe if you're at shell hardening at time of weevil presence or nut drop caused by feeding, and spray: pyrethroids & Imidan at low populations and Carbaryl at high populations (can flare other pests like mites).

Black Aphid: use Pro Gibb + aphicide when at threshold.

Walnut Caterpillar & Fall Webworm: webworms occur at end of branches spinning protective webs as they feed/defoliate. Walnut caterpillars feed and move down the canopy without protection. At low infestations, physically remove, at high numbers spray Intrepid or Dimilin.

NUISANCE WILDLIFE

Over half of UGA Ag agent client phone calls are for the control of eight species: squirrels, moles, voles, armadillos, birds, deer, wild pigs and snakes.

Translocation of small pest animals like some examples above as well as skunks and raccoons is actually illegal. One reason for this is due to the possible movement of diseases vectored by such wildlife, like rabies.

In many cases, habitat modification and exclusion are the best tactics to implement first. Clean up yard/wood debris and maintain fencing.

Wildlife management professionals still consider carrol trapping for feral hogs the best practice for controlling pig poluations around your property.

PEST CORNER

There is NO public health concern in GA because of kissing bugs. Some of these insects do vector the parasite which causes Chagas' disease, though the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have never recorded a case in the state. Chagas' disease is endemic in South & Central America where the kissing bug will defecate immediately after biting. In GA, the insects do not exhibit this behavior. The disease is only transmitted by the feces getting through an open wound or via ingestion. Kissing bugs do not transmit the disease via bite.

