



IRWIN COUNTY EXTENSION AGRICULTURE NEWS - Vol. 38 Thu. Sep 16, 2021

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Recent

We are checking a pretty good number of peanut samples at the office each morning. Also going out and looking at cotton to determine when to defoliate. We will not be checking peanuts next Tue morning Sept 21, but want to invite you instead to the Ben Hill Peanut Variety Field Day (see below) which we will also be attending. We have Cotton Defoliation Meeting planned for Fri. Sept. 24, 2021 at Noon at the Irwin County Middle/High CASE Farm (see below). A meal will be served. Many of you have gave input with our very brief survey on peanut pest management – thank you, but we still would like to have more of you to respond. I will be visiting 10 peanut fields and rating them for tomato spotted wilt virus – the results from last year’s survey is attached. Also, I will be sampling for nematode in soybean fields in the county as well as rating late cotton blooms. Check your license to make sure you have enough pesticide credits to renew your license.



Yes, these getting close – sample was early planted and a tight rotation

Assessing white mold – a few old hits <10% - good fungicides and rotation

Ben Hill Peanut Variety Trial Field Day is Tuesday September 21st at 8:30 am.

The field is located off Jacksonville US Hwy 319 E) just east of South Central Livestock. The field entrance is around the curve on the left - turn in just past the house on the left. There will be multiple specialists speaking and answering questions on maturity, weed control, insect control, and disease. Pesticide and CCA credits will be available. Please call or text Holly Anderson if you will attend at: (229) 325-4120.

Irwin County Cotton Defoliation Meeting

I am excited to be making plans for this meeting on Friday September 24th at the Irwin County Middle High School CASE Farm at Noon to cover cotton defoliation. Dr. Camp Hand UGA Cotton Specialist will present. Please call Phillip Edwards (229) 424-2863, Wesley Paulk (229) 424-3446 or preferably call the Irwin County Extension Office at (229) 468-7409 if you will attend soon as a meal will be served. Commercial and private pesticide credits and Certified Crop Advisor credits will be given.

Approaching Peanut Harvest: Pulling Your Peanut Sample

We are ready to go when you are. Please come from 8-12 (I will make every effort to be here unless I have a prior obligation) so we can get out in the county in the afternoon if we need to. It’s been a wet and a much different year so preferably bring the vines and pick off the sample at our office that way we can see the vine condition, stem strength, damage etc. We had some very dry conditions early then lots of wet conditions so we may have a leading edge of more ready peanuts, with the bulk being further behind. We will just have to see how they lay out on the profile board. We will keep you posted on these first few samples.

* If you have to bring them in the afternoon – that fine too, we will check them if we are here or check them when we return.
 * Go ahead and blast them put water to cover up the peanuts to keep them fresh and use the notepad and small pails that are available for you to leave a note in or under your sample. Include your name and cell phone on your note. If we are not here please call our office at 468-7409 and let us know that you dropped a sample off – we may put them in our refrigerator. We may send a picture of the sample if you are not here and text it to you. Proper maturity means optimum yield and fewer losses. Here is a reminder of how to pull a sample for maturity checking.

Remember a peanut hull scrape maturity check will be as accurate as the sample that you take. Pull or dig up at least 5 to 6 adjacent plants from at least three representative parts of a field which can be dug in one day. Keep these samples from each area of the field separate for your other field samples.

So, each sample will have three bunches of peanuts. Pick one plant from one location and pull off all peanuts from that plant; then pull from the next bunch and then the last bunch – go back to the first bunch and repeat the process if you don't have enough peanuts. Keeping picking until you have **around 200 peanuts (a sample should contain between 180 and 220 peanut pods and usually about a quart of peanuts).** Pick the vine clean. We are here to help you. As always you can just call the office (229) 468-7409 or my cell at (229) 424-2863.

Sunbelt Expo: North America's Premier Farm Show is Scheduled for October 19-21, 2021

EXPO IS BACK. THE FUTURE IS NOW <https://sunbeltexpo.com/> The Sunbelt Ag Expo is open Tuesday through Thursday, October 19-21, from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm each day except Thursday when the gate closes at 4:00 pm. Admission at the gate is \$10 per person per day. Advanced and discount tickets can be purchased online beginning August 1.



Peanut Survey

UGA Peanut Pest Management Survey

Instructions: Please answer the following pest management questions. If you answer yes, please provide the chemical used and the total number of acres treated.

1. County: _____ Plant Dates: _____ Total Acres: _____

2. Variety Planted: _____

3. Did you use an in-furrow insecticide?
 NO YES Acres _____

4. Did you spray a foliar thrips treatment?
 NO YES Acres _____

5. Did you spray for 3 cornered alfalfa hoppers?
 NO YES Acres _____

6. Did you spray for foliage feeding caterpillars?
 NO YES Acres _____

7. Did you apply granular chlorpyrifos?
 NO YES Acres _____

8. Did you spray for spider mites?
 NO YES Acres _____

9. Did you spray for lesser cornstalk borer?
 NO YES Acres _____

10. Did a scout/consultant monitor your peanuts?
 NO YES

Peanut Late leaf Spot

Kemerait

Peanut late leaf spot, more so than ever before in my career, has exploded. Let's talk about it.

1. We are NOT seeing a collapse of our fungicides or our active ingredients. We at UGA have too many trials out across the state to prove our chemistries and programs, while not bullet-proof, are holding.
2. It has been a PERFECT year for leaf spot epidemics. A) we have had beaucoup rain that enhances infection by leaf spot pathogens and spread of leaf spot diseases. B) wet weather has led to extended delays between fungicide applications and even missed applications. C) we have had shortages on many fungicides resulting in use of something other than what we really wanted. D) many of our newer peanut varieties likely need an 8th fungicide application because of our extended growing season. E) Delays in planting mean that much of our crop is still in the field when pressure from leaf spot is INTENSE and BLISTERING. F) some of our newer peanut varieties are more susceptible to leaf spot than is Georgia-06G.
3. What to do? A) if two-three weeks out from digging, assess your field for disease. If leaf spot is not a problem (and white mold is not) then you may not need the sprayer in the field again. If leaf spot is in the field and not too severe, you might consider a last application. If you have lost 25% of your leaves, anticipate digging within two weeks, regardless of maturity. If you have lost 50%, you may have a week or 10 days max. 75% or more- the pods are likely dropping off now.
4. Cooler temperatures, especially at night will slow white mold.

Late Season Disease Management and Harvest Issues

Kemerait

Disease management late in the peanut season can either be very easy or it can be quite confusing. In fields where there is little disease, growers can generally "coast" to harvest with confidence that there is little (or nothing) to be done to finish the crop. Where disease is present, growers must decide what measures should be taken to protect their crop as best they can as they limp towards harvest. The decision for "best" practices is based upon 1) projected time until harvest, 2) how much disease is in the field, and 3) overall yield potential of the crop. If there is not much time left until harvest (less than three weeks until digging), or if there is too much disease in the field, or if the yield potential is low because of other reasons, then there may not be any reason to spend more money on fungicides. However, in other situations growers can be justified in making a final fungicide application; the trick becomes what fungicide, or combination of fungicides, to apply. Perhaps the biggest change in disease management for peanuts over the course of my career has been that in the past peanuts were often dug 125-135 days after planting while we now wait 150 days (or more) before digging. This delay in harvest means that growers may need to consider an additional, final fungicide application to protect yield. Below are some typical situations that peanut growers may find themselves in and suggestions for control.

1. Grower is four or more weeks away from harvest and currently has excellent disease control.
 - a. Suggestion: I recommend that the grower apply at least one more fungicide at least for leaf spot control. It wouldn't hurt to use a mix of a protectant fungicide (chlorothalonil) + a curative with attention to the PHI (e.g. Alto has a 30 day PHI, Domark and Topsin have a 14 day PHI)
 - b. Suggestion: Given the low cost of tebuconazole, the grower may consider applying a tank-mix of tebuconazole (7.2 fl oz) + chlorothalonil (1.0 pt/A) for added insurance of white mold and leaf spot.
 - c. Notes on sulfur (specific formulations), Aproach Prima (picoxystrobin + cyproconazole), and Absolute MAXX (trifloxystrobin + tebuconazole)
 - i. SPECIFIC formulations of sulfur can be used with products like tebuconazole, azoxystrobin, Headline, and Aproach Prima to improve leaf spot control. I prefer that growers use such early-to-mid-season and not late in the season.
 - ii. If used late in the season, Absolute MAXX (14-day PHI) and Aproach Prima (30-day PHI) must be mixed with chlorothalonil. They are appropriate late-season where leaf spot is not well-established in the field.
2. Grower is four or more weeks away from harvest and has disease problems in the field.
 - a. 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 I strongly suggest that they mix a product like Provysol (mefentrifluconazole), thiophanate methyl (Topsin M), cyproconazole (Alto), tetraconazole (Domark) with the chlorothalonil. Alto has a 30-day PHI; the other fungicides have a 14- day PHI. Growers are NOT encouraged to use Priaxor or Miravis late in the season, especially where leaf spot is a problem.
 - b. Provost Silver is also performs well as compared to other fungicides for lateseason leaf spot management.
 - c. If the problem is white mold: Grower should continue with fungicide applications for management of white mold and leaf spot. If they have completed their regular white mold program and are within 40 days of anticipated harvest, then they should extend the program, perhaps with a tebuconazole/chlorothalonil mix, Provost Silver, or Fontelis. Each of these fungicides has a 14-day preharvest interval.

d. 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 three 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.

4. Grower is three or less weeks away from harvest and has a problem with disease.

a. If leaf spot (or rust) 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 (defoliation more than 20%), then a last application will not help. See above for suggested applications.

b. If white mold is a problem and harvest is 3 weeks away, then it is likely beneficial to apply a final white mold fungicide, as above. If harvest is 2 weeks or less away, then it is unlikely that a fungicide will be of any benefit.

c. 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.

Growers, in general, are encouraged to wait until appropriate harvest maturity to dig their peanut crop. However severe disease in a field may mean that growers should dig ahead of a projected digging date to minimize harvest losses. There are no “hard and fast” recommendations for conditions when digging early is advised, however here are some suggestions for when the grower is within two weeks of harvest.

1. Tomato spotted wilt, even when severe, is generally not a reason to dig early.

2. Significant defoliation from leaf spot diseases, 50% and beyond is reasons to consider digging early to minimize harvest losses.

3. Active white mold in a field that affects greater than 40% of the crop could make digging early necessary. Again, there are not hard and fast, but guidelines for timing “best” harvest.

Pre-Harvest Intervals and Late Season Peanut Fungicides

Tucker Price Cook County Agent

Pre-Harvest Intervals (PHI)

Convoy – 40 Day PHI

UMBRA – 40 DAY PHI

Excalia – 40 DAY PHI

Elatus – 30 DAY PHI

Check label of specific products for PHI

Muscle, Teb (tebuconazole) – 14 DAY PHI

Fontelis – 14 DAY PHI

Bravo (chlorothalonil) – 14 DAY PHI

Alto – 30 DAY PHI

Peanut Maturity

Monfort

There are several factors that can affect maturity like temperature, moisture, diseases, and production practices. You can have the same or two different cultivars in the same maturity group planted on the same day in different fields mature at different rates due to difference in soil type, rainfall, or pest problems. Therefore, do not assume that a cultivar will always mature at its “normal” rate, especially this year with most areas in Georgia being slightly cooler than normal and having weekly rain events/cloudy weather. The excessive rain this season also caused growers to have to be more aggressive in their weed control potentially setting their peanut crop back a week to 10 days. On the flip side - there is also potential for some fields to be early this year. I have received several texts and calls on a few fields that looked ready on the maturity board at 130 to 135 days old. I admit these fields surprised me a little with all of the 145 to 150 day maturity board samples I have seen so far. In these situations, I would suggest taking another sample to make sure it is correct. Remember to collect as much information on a field as you are laying the peanuts out on the maturity board. Knowing the health of the vines, disease levels, etc. is needed to accurately determine maturity.

We keep a log book of all samples ran at our office. You may want to do the same for your fields. Some questions I want you to consider and I will try to ask these when you bring a sample is Keep a maturity clinic log book – It would be helpful for you to keep a Maturity log of all of the samples you run. This will help you keep track the progression of some fields over time. Below are a few questions you need to consider and I will try to ask when you visit with your samples. So many just bring the peanut sample picked off and ready to blast however, if vine condition is a concern please bring some vines so we can take a look.

1.) Date planted

2.) Irrigated/non-irrigated

3.) Disease/Insect issues

4.) When was the last spray fungicide application?

5.) Peg issues?

6.) Did they have any valor injury or did they apply gramoxone or other herbicides that set the crop back?

7.) Level of TSWV

Additionally, be aware of areas of the field that were extremely wet for prolonged periods of time – There are fields all over Georgia where prolonged wet periods caused peanut to turn yellow. These areas never seem to green back up even after the rains have

diminished. This is largely due to a significant decline in root viability or decline. For the most part, the roots and in some cases the pods are rotten. You need to try to exclude these areas (if they are bad) instead of mixing with the good quality peanuts in the field. This does not mean every yellow area will have bad peanuts --- Growers will need to make that distinction as they are dug. The areas I am talking about are the low lying areas. I am not talking about the normal late season yellowing of the crop.

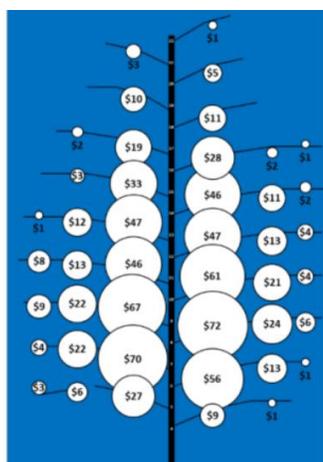
How does Late Season Temperatures affect peanut maturity and decision on when to dig

- a. Typically, minimum temperatures in the upper 30's and lower 40's happen around the third week of October.
- b. Temperatures in the lower 40's and lower for several mornings in a row will cause the plants to shut down and further development and maturation is over.
- c. There is a misconception that temperatures in the upper 40's and lower 50's shut down the plant. Those temperatures will slow the maturation down but it will not cause it to stop.
- d. The "normal" minimum temperature at Tifton is 61 degrees on October 1st and 51 degrees on November 1st.
- e. If there is a risk of a frost/freeze the best thing to do is leave the peanuts in the ground. They are insulated in the ground.
- f. inverted peanuts less than 48 hrs before a frost or freeze --- there is a high risk for frost damage.
- g. Inverted greater than 48 hrs before a frost or freeze --- less risk of Frost damage. Please call me if you need any help or have questions.

Cotton Boll Position and Corresponding Value

An updated boll positioning value has been produced by Jared Whitaker showing the importance of those lower and first position bolls.

Fruiting Location	Value
1 st Positions	72%
2 nd Positions	18%
3 rd Positions	5%
Vegetative	5%
Nodes ≤10	60%
Nodes 11-15	31%
Nodes ≥ 16	9%



Boll position and value of boll position along the cotton plant, courtesy of Jared Whitaker.

This new value tree really emphasizes the importance of first setting those high dollar bolls early in the season with proper management. Nearing the end of the growing season, overwatering and irrigating your crop with a higher than 10% open boll in an effort to make young upper position low value bolls open in the top will lead to losing or damaging your most valuable bolls and reducing yield and profitability. Not to mention, those young bolls probably will not mature enough to be harvested. If you have questions about terminating irrigation make sure you reach out to your local UGA County Extension Agent.

Late-Season Disease and Nematode Management Considerations for Cotton Growers (Bob Kemerait):

With the arrival of September, cotton growers in Georgia have long anticipated the start of harvest and preparation for the final days of the season. Understandably, much of the focus now is on defoliation and in getting the cotton out of the field and to the gin. If the crop is within four weeks of defoliation, there is little need to further protect against foliar diseases; if a crop is more than a month off from defoliation, then some attention should be given to areolate mildew which may (or may not) be present.

While it will be quickly too late to further protect the 2021 crop from diseases and nematodes, there are important steps that should be taken now in preparation for the 2022 crop. Later in the season, especially while leaves are still on the cotton plants, is a good time to identify problems that have led to "weak" spots in the field, premature leaf drop, and even boll rot. While there is very little that can be done to protect a cotton crop against fungal boll rots, it is still helpful to identify the

important pathogens that were responsible for the damage to the bolls and to differentiate the rots they cause from bacterial boll rot. Below are signs and symptoms to look for now in a cotton field and recommendations for next season.

1. “Weak spots” in a field, often characterized by stunted and even dead plants, are frequently associated with **plant-parasitic nematodes** (southern root-knot, reniform, Columbia lance and sting). Submitting soil samples collected directly from the root zone now, or shortly after harvest, and submitting them to a nematode diagnostic lab allows the grower to A) determine if indeed nematodes are the culprit and B) what type of nematodes are present. Such information is critical for 2022 in that it helps to determine best crop rotation, best variety choices (e.g., root-knot and/or reniform resistance) and need for nematicides. **Fusarium wilt** is also of increasing importance in Georgia and can be best assessed by collecting a soil sample for nematode analysis AND by examining the interior of the lower stem of the affected plants for characteristic “vascular” discoloration. Fusarium wilt can best be managed through crop rotation and use of an effective nematicide. Lastly, dead and dying plants occurring in spots in a field may also be caused by a disease known as “charcoal rot” caused by the fungus *Macrophomina phaseolina*. **Charcoal rot** can easily be confirmed in a disease diagnostic clinic. While there is not much that can be done to manage this disease during times of crop stress, identifying the problem can help growers avoid other treatments, such as use of nematicides, that will not help.
2. Premature defoliation has been caused by several important diseases in 2021. These include target spot, areolate mildew, Stemphylium leaf spot, Cercospora leaf spot and, to a small degree, bacterial blight. Premature defoliation does not always cause a loss of yield, but these diseases can, when they occur early enough and are severe enough, can increase losses at harvest. Stemphylium and Cercospora leaf spot diseases are a direct result of insufficient nutrients IN the plants, especially potassium. They typically occur in the same spots in a field year after year. Efforts to better manage soil fertility and irrigation in those areas can reduce the risk to both diseases. Target spot and areolate mildew can both be managed with timely and judicious use of fungicides. When they occur late in the season no treatment may be needed as the defoliation is too late to affect yield and may also improve air circulation and reduce boll rots. Growers are encouraged to identify the cause of foliar diseases in the field so that a) they can scout for them early in the 2022 season and B) so they can deploy effective and appropriate management strategies. For bacterial blight, this would be selection of resistant varieties. For fungal diseases it would be whether use of appropriate fungicides or greater attention to soil fertility issues is the key management strategy.
3. **Boll rots** are a challenging problem, especially when rainfall has been abundant later in the season. Boll rots are especially frustrating to farmers because there is very little that can be done to protect against them. A first step in management for 2022 is to identify the causes of boll rot in a field. If the boll rot is primarily caused by bacterial blight (*Xanthomonas citri* pv. *malvacearum*) then it is important to consider planting a resistant variety next season. Impact of all boll rots, whether caused by bacteria or fungal pathogens, can be reduced by managing the cotton crop to increase air flow and reduce humidity within the canopy and to manage insects, such as stinkbugs, that can damage the boll and allow introduction of pathogens and organisms that further rot the bolls.

Attention now to troubled spots and problems in the field may not make more cotton in 2021, but such efforts could significantly increase yields in subsequent seasons.

Defoliation Considerations for 2021: On-Target Applications are Critical!!! (Camp Hand and Stanley Culpepper): It is that time of the season where people are beginning to think about defoliation. Traveling across the state recently, I observed bolls opening in some of our earlier planted crop. It has been a tough year for many, but we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

It is definitely time to think about defoliation, and one topic that should be front and center for everyone is making on-target defoliation applications. Georgia farmers and their applicators have reduced pesticide drift complaints to the Cooperative Extension Service over 78% since 2014; this is simply remarkable and an achievement that should make us all proud.

However, cotton defoliation drift remains a significant concern and one that we must collectively address if our hope is to maintain the practical use of these important products.

There are multiple factors that influence the movement of pesticides out of the treated area; several of those factors are discussed below.

1. What is around my field?

As defoliation approaches, it is important to know what is around your fields. Pay attention to surrounding crops (i.e. late planted cotton, fall vegetables) and neighboring areas (i.e. homeowners). Knowing this information can assist in multiple defoliation decisions such as when to defoliate (a day with low drift potential) and application method.

2. Wind speed and direction

Wind speed and direction are the two most important weather factors influencing spray drift. High wind speeds will move spray droplets off-target in the direction that the wind is blowing. Optimum wind speeds for any pesticide application will be between 3 to 10 miles per hour, with the optimum direction being away from a sensitive area. Examples of sensitive areas where wind speed and direction should be influential in applications are listed above.

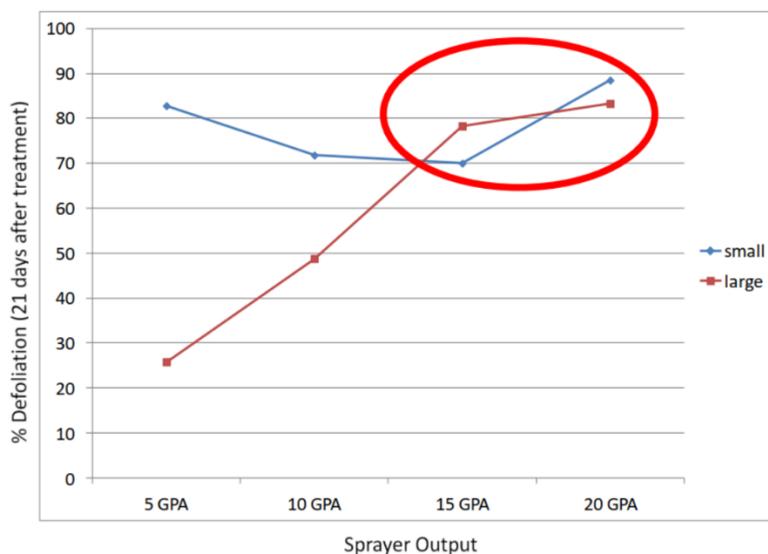
3. Boom Height

Boom height is one of the most important components to reducing spray drift thereby improving on-target applications. As boom height increases, potential particle drift increases. The ideal boom height for ground applications is 24 inches above the target (cotton plant). Of course, make sure your nozzle spacing provides proper spray pattern overlap!

4. Nozzle Type / Droplet Size

Nozzle type influences droplet size, which in turn can affect the likelihood of those spray droplets to drift. If you will remember from your UPW training, smaller droplets remain in the air for a longer period of time making them more vulnerable to move off-target. Although larger droplets are less likely to drift, many growers have questioned the efficacy of these larger droplets as it pertains to defoliation (along with other applications). A study conducted across the cotton belt demonstrated that sprayer output was far more important than nozzle type, meaning that regardless of nozzle type higher sprayer output resulted in greater defoliation. Dr. Guy Collins at North Carolina State University shared the data in the graph below, which shows defoliation three weeks after treatment as impacted by droplet size (small vs. large) and sprayer output. In this situation, Prep, Folex, and Dropp were the defoliant applied. A nozzle that produces small droplets would be a hollow cone nozzle, with larger droplets being produced from an air induction nozzle (i.e. auxin nozzles). Thus, effective defoliation can occur with larger droplets, but sprayer output must be in the 15 to 20 GPA range! Although applying more water per acre may take a little more time, if it helps us make on-target defoliant applications, particularly in sensitive areas, then it will be worth it in regards to long-term farm sustainability.

Since the auxin technologies were commercialized in cotton and soybean, Georgia growers have consistently proven to be some of the best in the country at making on-target herbicide applications. Let's take the lessons we have learned over the past few years, use them when applying defoliant, and reduce the number of drift complaints related to cotton defoliation. As always, if anyone has any questions related to this or anything else, please contact your local UGA Extension agent. They, along with myself and the other specialists, are here to help.



Terminating Insecticide Applications Roberts

The decision to terminate insect controls can be challenging in some fields but a few basic considerations will assist in that decision. 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.

Insect Pest(s)	Approx. Boll Age (days)
Corn Earworm	18-20
Tobacco Budworm	bolls fully sized
Stink Bugs	25
Fall Armyworm	bolls near maturity
Sucking Insects whiteflies aphids	harvest (honeydew accumulation on lint)

As always for more information contact your Irwin County Extension Office.

*Thank You, God Bless You,
Phillip Edwards - Irwin County Agent*



The mention of trade names in this newsletter does not imply endorsement by the Georgia Extension Service, nor criticism of similar ones not mentioned.

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