

GAINES COUNTY IPM NEWSLETTER

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Upcoming Meetings

August 24th Gaines County Ag Tour
8:00 to 8:30 Registration at the Gaines County Civic Building
8:30 Depart for Ag Tour
12:00 Return to Gaines County Civic Building for a meal

Tour stops will include a peanut Verticillium Wilt trial at Chuck Rowland's farm, a nematicide/variety trial for management of nematodes at Raymond McPherson's farm, a cotton Verticillium Wilt variety trial at Froese Farms, and an irrigated cotton variety trial at Jud Cheuvront's farm.

Dr. Calvin Trostle will cover Gaines County wheat variety trial results and grain sorghum.

Speakers: Dr. Jason Woodward, Dr. Todd Baughman, Dr. David Kerns, Dr. Randy Boman, and Dr. Calvin Trostle.

Please contact Terry Millican at (432) 758-4006 ext. 238 or Manda Cattaneo at (432) 788-0800.

Cotton General Situation

Worm activity continues to be the most important issue in non-Bt (conventional) cotton. The bollworms that we were finding in peanuts in late July/early August have developed into moths. My bollworm moth trap catches have held steady the last two weeks and we are seeing several bollworm moths in the cotton fields. We are finding several small worms underneath the bloom tags that are stuck on the bolls. The moths are laying their eggs in the bloom and when the worm hatches it immediately enters the tip of the boll and begins feeding. So be sure to check blooms and underneath the bloom tags for tiny worms and worm damage.

At this point we are seeing chronic worm infestations. During the last two weeks we have had a continuous egg lay, which has resulted in worm sizes ranging from just emerged to 1 1/2 inches within the same field. A majority of the worms range from 1 day old to 1/2 inch. Last week several fields were below threshold. Moving into this week several more worms have hatched in these fields. The combination of last weeks' worms plus the worms that hatched this week has driven us past threshold in several fields. These chronic infestations are the hardest to control and timing of insecticide applications can be very challenging. My guess is that we are going to have at least another week of heavy bollworm egg lays. This means that growers need to be scouting their non-Bt fields every 4 days at minimum to determine the optimum time for an insecticide application and to catch the worms before they reach 1/2 inch. Insecticides applied to control 1/2 inch long worms are only moderately effective.

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In addition to the bollworms we are also finding fall armyworms and beet armyworms. Please see last week's newsletter for information on thresholds and insecticide recommendations.

We are also picking up a few lygus bug nymphs and stink bugs. The threshold for lygus bugs is 4 per 6 foot of row. The threshold for stinkbugs is 1 per 6 foot of row.

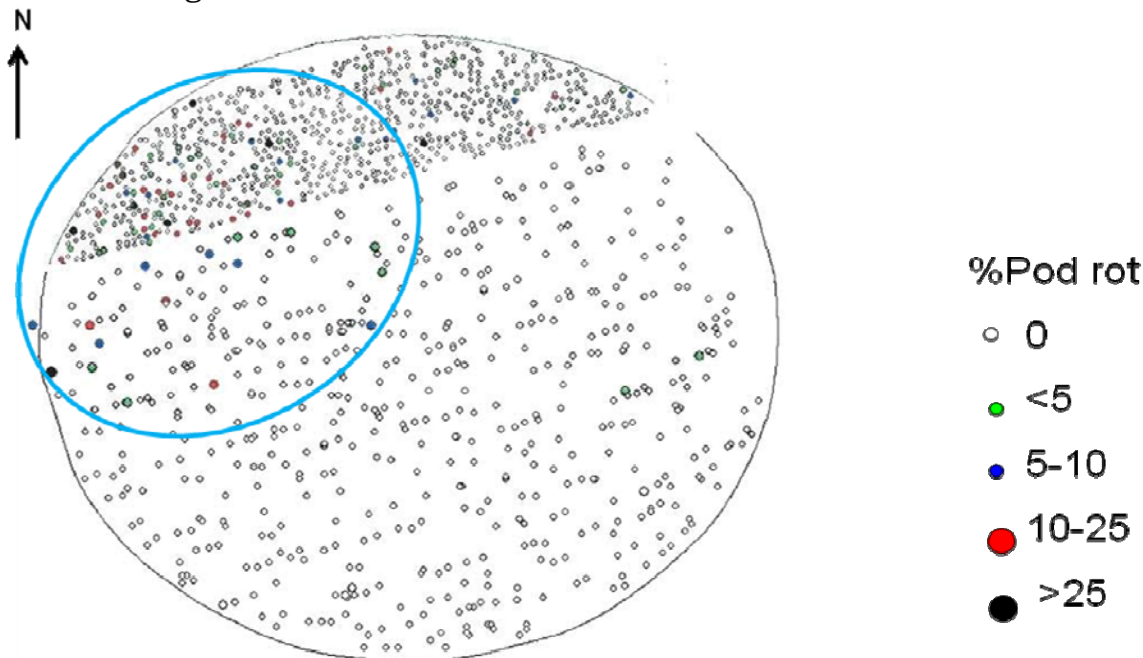
Peanut General Situation

Pod rot is present in several fields. The preventative fungicides and the dry weather seem to be keeping the pod rot in check. But growers need to continuously sample their fields on a weekly basis for pod rot development.

Pod rot is one of those diseases that is hard to scout for because there are no symptoms above ground. Additionally, pod rot is not always evenly distributed throughout the field. One section of the field may have more pod rot than the rest of the field. Therefore fields need to be scouted thoroughly.

Below is a picture of the Gaines County field that we are sampling for a pod rot research trial. We started sampling this field on July 5 and we have sampled it on a weekly basis. Each dot represents a spot that we have sampled. The various colors of the dots represent different levels of pod rot. There is a high concentration of pod rot in the northwest area of this field (this is not a low spot in the field).

I know no body can check this many spots in a field. The point of this illustration is to not just check the low spots or the same spots each week, but to check random spots all over the field. This will help you to determine if the pod rot is evenly distributed throughout the field or if it is concentrated in one area. If it is concentrated in one area, then you may be able to do site specific applications rather than treating the whole field.



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