



St. Francis County

Cotton IPM Report

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All of our county's cotton should be squaring this week, and the early cotton is blooming. We saw several blooms on Linden Island Monday.

Yellow Spots

Tom Barber

Yellow spots are being found on cotton leaves from Louisiana and Arkansas to the Missouri state line. They are also being found on cotton, and have been found on soybean, broadleaf weeds and vegetables in the garden as well. Speculation was made that glyphosate or a possible nutrient deficiency may be the cause of the phenomenon. According to Ken Smith and others, the spots are not consistent with symptomology associated with glyphosate on Roundup Ready crops or non-Roundup Ready plants such as weeds and vegetables. Several samples were sent to the University of Arkansas fertility lab, and a leaf analysis was conducted. The results were that nutrient levels were adequate in the leaf for all macro and micro nutrients.

We are not sure why the spots are showing up, but we are certain that it is not a nutrient deficiency or glyphosate damage. The new growth should come out fine, and this will go down in the books as one of those "weird" occurrences.

Insect Situation

Gus Lorenz and Scott Akin

Plant Bugs: It appears plant bug numbers are not as bad as last year, but we are seeing a few fields with high numbers. Plant bugs appear to be really spotty right now, often with no rhyme or reason. This is why you have to scout each and every field. There has been a lot of discussion on threshold with a sweep net. This work is presently being done by an entomologist in the mid-south, with Gus Lorenz, Scott Akin and Glenn Studebaker looking at thresholds in Arkansas. With two years of data, we currently have a low threshold of 8 per 100 sweeps and a high of 12 per 100 sweeps. So if you are running 8 per 100 and square retention is dropping below 80%, you may want to consider a plant bug application. Otherwise, you may want to stick to 10 or 12 per 100 sweeps. We are working to refine this application for pre-blooming cotton after the accumulation of 3 years of data from all locations at the end of this season. After bloom we are going to the black shake sheets and maintaining the threshold developed in our regional study of 3 per 5 row feet or 1 per 3 row feet on problem fields and maintaining square retention at 80% or above. Remember to try to use a "softer" chemistry (e.g., Centric®, Carbine®, TriMax Pro®) when choosing an insecticide for tarnished plant bugs this early. Diamond® could also be a consideration, but it is only effective against nymphs. Using the aforementioned insecticides will avoid flaring aphids and spider mites, and we should really save acephate (e.g., Orthene®) and pyrethroids for later in the season.

Remember that Bidrin® is no longer allowed to be used until bloom (except for a thrips application before 1st square).

We are seeing variable numbers of plant bug populations in cotton next to corn, and finding many in wild hosts such as Queen Anne's lace and Coreopsis.

Bollworms. *H. zea* moths are picking up in several areas—whether caught in traps or flushed in the field. Regardless, it would be a good idea to keep an eye out for heliothine eggs as you scout from here forward.

SFC Trap Counts

	7/01
Dillahunt	0/1
Belle Meade	0/0
DeRossitt Farm	27/138
Madison	11/15
Linden Island	3/66
SFC 742	11/85
Yocona Rd	41/97
Caldwell	9/22
SFC 858	16/88
SFC 130 (SW corn borer)	11
Chappell	0

Except where corn borer is noted, trap counts are: tobacco budworm/ bollworm.