UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION
Ben Hill County

BEN HILL COUNTY AGRICULTURE NEWS

Sat 23	82°/72°	PM Showers	51%	NE 4 mph
Sun 24	88°/72°	AM Clouds/PM Sun	24%	N 4 mph
Mon 25	91°/65°	Mostly Sunny	13%	NW 6 mph
Tue 26	88°/66°	Sunny	3%	NNW 7 mph
Wed 27	87°/66°	Partly Cloudy	6%	NNE 6 mph
Thu 28	86°/65°	Partly Cloudy	17%	ENE 8 mph
Fri 29	86°/66°	Partly Cloudy	19%	NE 8 mph
Sat 30	85°/68°	Mostly Cloudy	23%	ENE 8 mph
Sun 31	85°/69°	Partly Cloudy	24%	ENE 8 mph
Mon 01	85°/69°	PM Showers	31%	ENE 7 mph
Tue 02	87°/69°	Partly Cloudy	24%	NNE 7 mph
Wed 03	87°/69°	Partly Cloudy	24%	NNE 7 mph
Thu 04	87°/70°	Partly Cloudy	24%	NE 7 mph
Fri 05	88°/70°	Partly Cloudy	24%	NE 7 mph

(Forecast from The Weather Channel for Ben Hill County)

High 80's to low 90's for next week with scattered chances of rain!

UGA Podcasts:

Link to **peanut** podcast page-

https://open.spotify.com/episode/5wxSceuurtvEOFxCzjXiN8?si=FTFSdzUyTzCKkQh_LJXcKw

Link to **cotton** podcast page

https://www.buzzsprout.com/2350262/episodes/16786065

Peanut Update:

Peanuts in the county are looking very good for the most part. Remember, good vines don't tell the whole story.

Leaf spot update from Dr. Kemerait:

Aggressive management of lea spot now. 1) tighten spray intervals to 10-12 days. 2) consider use of Provost Silver, Alto + chlorothalonil, or Provysol + teb, 3) once devolution reaches 25% or so, a fungicide won't help much anymore, once defoliation hits 60% digging should not be far behind.

Where are the Caterpillars? Mark Abney

At the risk of jinxing the whole dang thing, the question I have gotten most in recent days from peanut farmers, county agents, and consultants has been, "Where are the caterpillars?" The short answer is that I don't know where the caterpillars are. Caterpillar pressure has been lighter than average across most of Georgia in 2025. The most common species I am seeing in fields is the rednecked peanut worm, and it is not considered a major pest. As always, the best thing a grower can do is scout or pay someone to scout fields every week and treat only when thresholds are reached. Three reports of fields with caterpillars above threshold came in today. Is this the beginning of a larger trend? No one knows yet. There is no reason to apply an insecticide to a peanut field because there are supposed to be caterpillars there in mid-August. There are plenty of reasons to scout and base management decisions on the real-time pest pressure in the field. Every dollar we don't have to spend killing insects is a dollar we get to keep in our pocket.

Potato leafhopper (PLH) and hopper burn continue to be topics of concern. Georgia has seen above average PLH populations in 2025. The impact of hopper burn on peanut yield is not known, and treating this insect with insecticides comes with some risk. Nearly all the active ingredients that have efficacy against PLH can flare spider mites. In addition, PLH is highly mobile and can move in and out of fields. The presence of hopper burn alone is not justification for an insecticide application because the injury will remain even after the insects are gone. There is no reason to apply an insecticide to a peanut field because PLH was there last week. I have very little data, but the data I have suggest that PLH feeding is not likely to cause yield loss. Still, if you have questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact your local UGA county Extension agent.

Finalizing peanut irrigation: Dr. Wes Porter

We are now into mid- to late- August and are moving into the end of the season very rapidly. While some of the later planted crops are just reaching peak water requirements, many of the earlier planted cotton and peanuts are moving on closer to maturity.

For good or bad, unlike corn and cotton, peanuts do not have a physiological irrigation termination point. Anyone I have ever talked to about determining when to stop irrigating peanuts have told me that it is more of an art than a science.

So first we need to look at our peanut water use curve and determine where we are on it. As shown in the graph and table below, once we pass the 10 to 12 week mark our water requirements begin to decline. Once we reach the 120 DAP timeframe, we will need to consider where our peanuts are on maturity and start making decisions.

When we know our estimated digging date for each field, we then need to consider where we currently stand on soil moisture in each field, when our last irrigation application was, when the last rainfall occurred, and what the near-term forecast looks like.

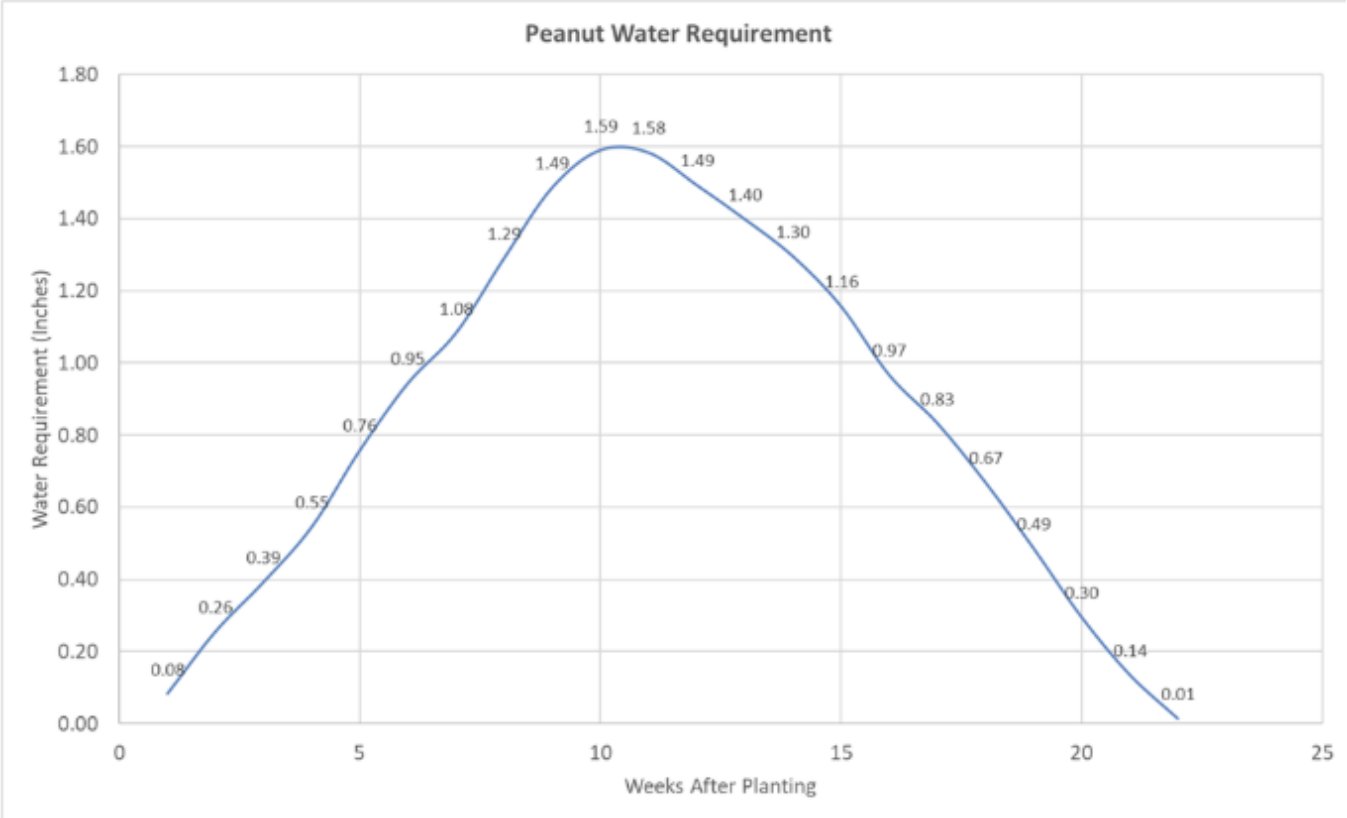
If you have:

- A short window until digging, we have adequate soil moisture, and you are ready to dig, I would suggest terminating irrigation.
- A short window until digging, but you are dry and no rainfall is predicted, I would suggest applying another irrigation event, conversely if guaranteed rain is predicted, do not irrigate.
- A long window until digging, are drying out, no rainfall is predicted, then irrigate.
- A long window until digging, have adequate moisture, and rainfall is uncertain, I would monitor the field and the weather conditions and make an appropriate decision when you less than a week do digging.
- And obviously, there is rain forecast, and it comes, then rely on the rain and save the irrigation applications.

One of the biggest concerns during the end of the season peanut irrigation is digging. We run into this every year it seems, but conditions that are too dry will wear digger blades extremely rapidly and make it nearly impossible to invert the peanuts. In many cases, farmers have had to stop digging dryland fields until rain was received. If irrigation is available, a 0.5-to-0.75-inch event the day or day and a half prior to digging can help alleviate this problem. Conversely, digging in conditions that are too wet can cause excessive soil to stick to the shell and bring more foreign material into the combine.

One thing both Scott Monfort and myself do not recommend is terminating irrigation on all of your peanut fields once you have started digging the first field. Remember that you planted your peanuts over a month or more timespan and will harvest them the same.

Do not short the peanuts the last month or more of water and lose yield.



Peanut Irrigation Schedule			
Days after Planting	Weeks after Planting	Inches per Week	Inches per Day
1 - 7	1	0.08	0.01
8 - 14	2	0.26	0.04
15 - 21	3	0.39	0.06
22 - 28	4	0.55	0.08
29 - 35	5	0.76	0.11
36 - 42	6	0.95	0.14
43 - 49	7	1.08	0.15
50 - 56	8	1.29	0.18
57 - 63	9	1.49	0.21
64 - 70	10	1.59	0.23
71 - 77	11	1.58	0.23
78 - 84	12	1.49	0.21
85 - 91	13	1.40	0.20
92 - 98	14	1.30	0.19
99 - 105			
106 - 112	16	0.97	0.14
113 - 119	17	0.83	0.12
120 - 126	18	0.67	0.10
127 - 133	19	0.49	0.07
134 - 140	20	0.30	0.04
141 - 147	21	0.14	0.02
148 - 150	22	0.01	0.00

Peak Water Use

Water Use Declines

Irrigation Termination is Advised

Manganese in peanuts and overall update:

There is a lot of manganese deficiency out there, but not much we can do about it economically at this point.

Soil and tissue samples would be helpful to get the full picture

When it comes to insect pests (foliage feeders) remember to not treat unless they are at threshold. Just because you see the caterpillar doesn't mean you should spend the money to treat. If the pests are not at threshold, you will not make that money back!!

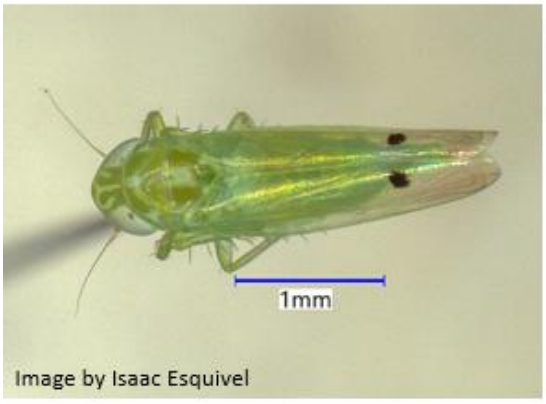
For weed management this late, remember harvest intervals. Also think of canopy coverage over the weeds. IF the weeds are under the peanut vines, the herbicide cannot reach the weeds, causing the application to be useless.

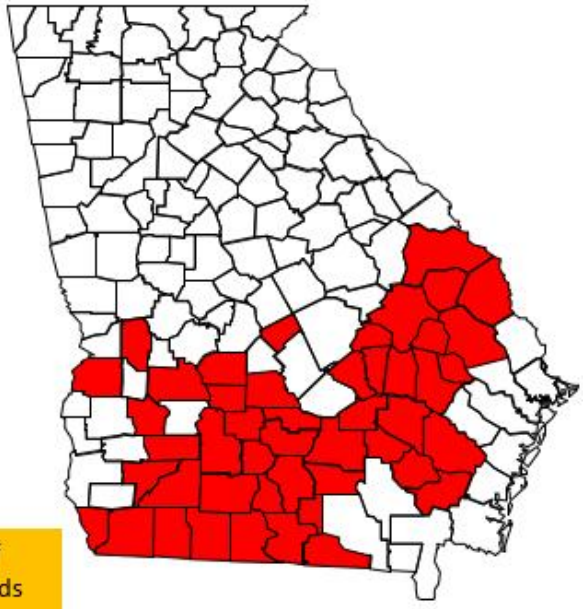
Plant Date	120 Days	130 Days	135 Days	140 Days	145 Days	150 Days
7-Apr	5-Aug	15-Aug	20-Aug	25-Aug	30-Aug	4-Sep
10-Apr	8-Aug	18-Aug	23-Aug	28-Aug	2-Sep	7-Sep
13-Apr	11-Aug	21-Aug	26-Aug	31-Aug	5-Sep	10-Sep
16-Apr	14-Aug	24-Aug	29-Aug	3-Sep	8-Sep	13-Sep
19-Apr	17-Aug	27-Aug	1-Sep	6-Sep	11-Sep	16-Sep
22-Apr	20-Aug	30-Aug	4-Sep	9-Sep	14-Sep	19-Sep
25-Apr	23-Aug	2-Sep	7-Sep	12-Sep	17-Sep	22-Sep
28-Apr	26-Aug	5-Sep	10-Sep	15-Sep	20-Sep	25-Sep
1-May	29-Aug	8-Sep	13-Sep	18-Sep	23-Sep	28-Sep
4-May	1-Sep	11-Sep	16-Sep	21-Sep	26-Sep	1-Oct
7-May	4-Sep	14-Sep	19-Sep	24-Sep	29-Sep	4-Oct
10-May	7-Sep	17-Sep	22-Sep	27-Sep	2-Oct	7-Oct
13-May	10-Sep	20-Sep	25-Sep	30-Sep	5-Oct	10-Oct
16-May	13-Sep	23-Sep	28-Sep	3-Oct	8-Oct	13-Oct
19-May	16-Sep	26-Sep	1-Oct	6-Oct	11-Oct	16-Oct
22-May	19-Sep	29-Sep	4-Oct	9-Oct	14-Oct	19-Oct
25-May	22-Sep	2-Oct	7-Oct	12-Oct	17-Oct	22-Oct
28-May	25-Sep	5-Oct	10-Oct	15-Oct	20-Oct	25-Oct
31-May	28-Sep	8-Oct	13-Oct	18-Oct	23-Oct	28-Oct
3-Jun	1-Oct	11-Oct	16-Oct	21-Oct	26-Oct	31-Oct
6-Jun	4-Oct	14-Oct	19-Oct	24-Oct	29-Oct	3-Nov
9-Jun	7-Oct	17-Oct	22-Oct	27-Oct	1-Nov	6-Nov
12-Jun	10-Oct	20-Oct	25-Oct	30-Oct	4-Nov	9-Nov
15-Jun	13-Oct	23-Oct	28-Oct	2-Nov	7-Nov	12-Nov
18-Jun	16-Oct	26-Oct	31-Oct	5-Nov	10-Nov	15-Nov
21-Jun	19-Oct	29-Oct	3-Nov	8-Nov	13-Nov	18-Nov

Cotton Jassid Update: Dr. Roberts

Cotton Jassid County Detections

As of August 18, 2025





Thanks to each of you who reported detection of cotton jassids in your county. If you suspect jassids text me a pic of an adult (see pic above).

Cotton Jassid Plant Damage

Early symptoms of "hopperburn" left. Severe symptoms middle and right.

Jassid infestations and plant injury symptoms are higher on field margins. Symptoms can show up quickly. We do not want whole fields to look like edges (we are seeing whole fields with symptoms in several counties).

DO NOT underestimate this pest!

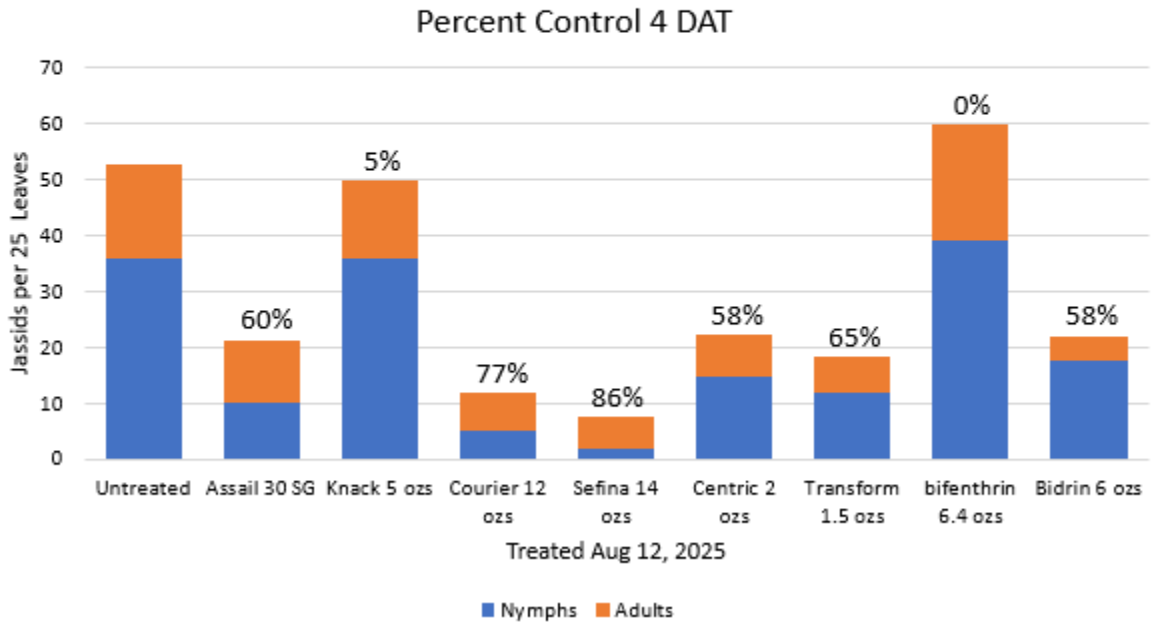
NEW UPDATED THRESHOLD

Scouting Cotton Jassid

- Count jassid nymphs on the 3rd, 4th, or 5th mainstem leaf below the terminal (they are most commonly found on the 4th).
- **NEW Preliminary** Threshold:
  - 2 nymphs per leaf and symptoms present.
  - Or early symptoms (slight hopperburn) commonly observed in inner portion of field and jassids present.
  - Zoom in pic on right and you will see cast skins (exoskeleton where nymphs molted).

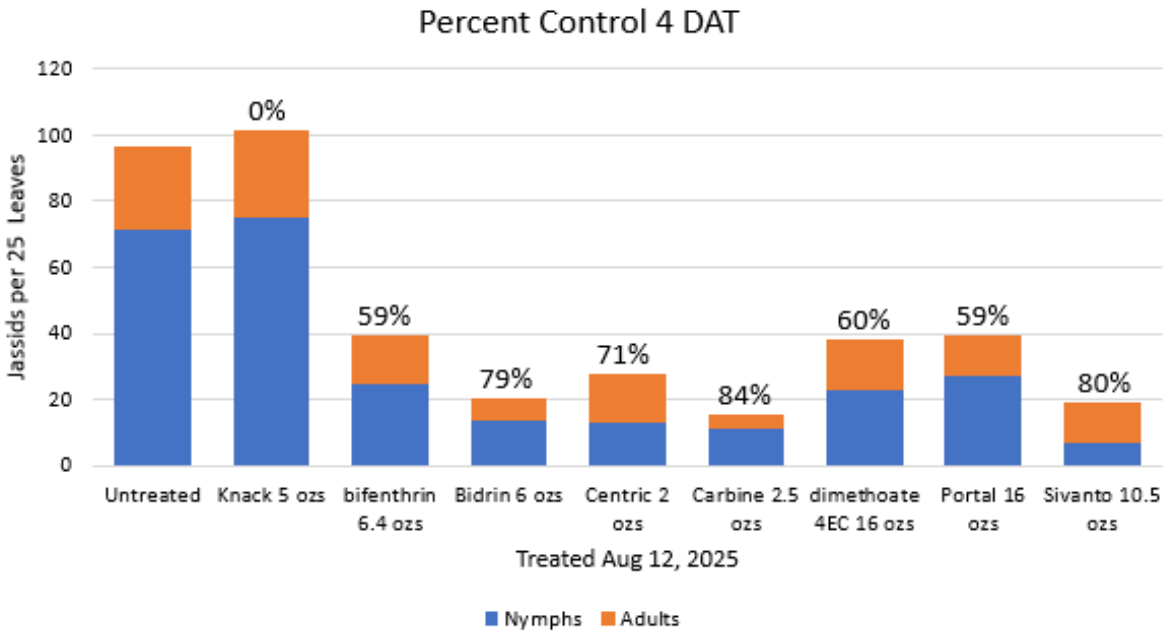
Cotton Jassid

Colquitt County (4 DAT)



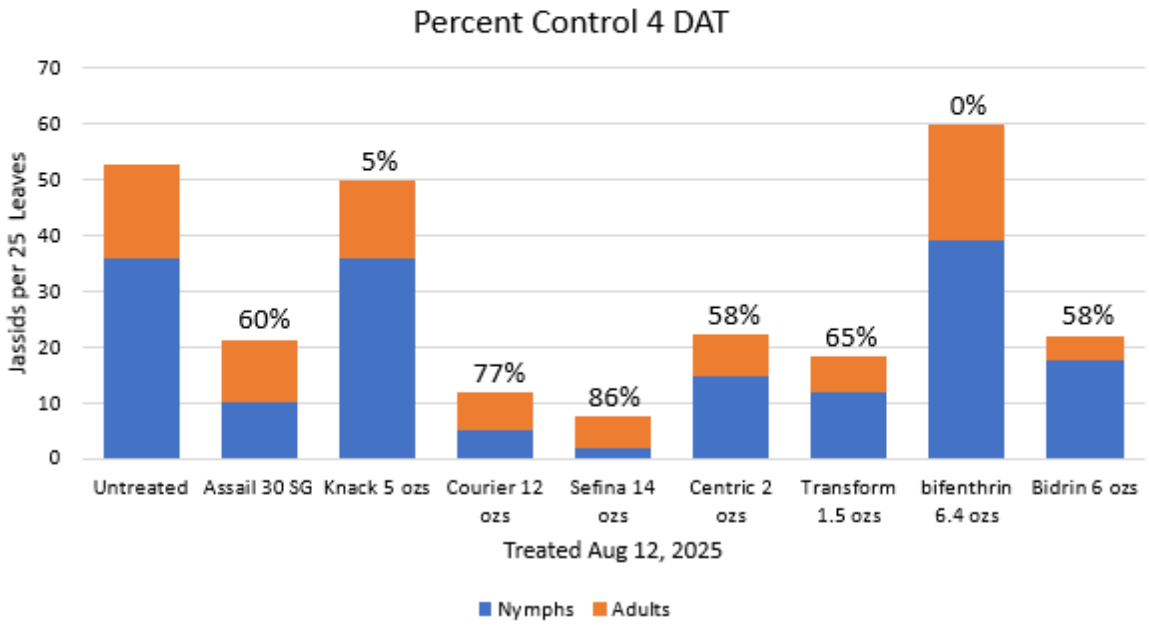
Cotton Jassid

Brooks County (4 DAT)



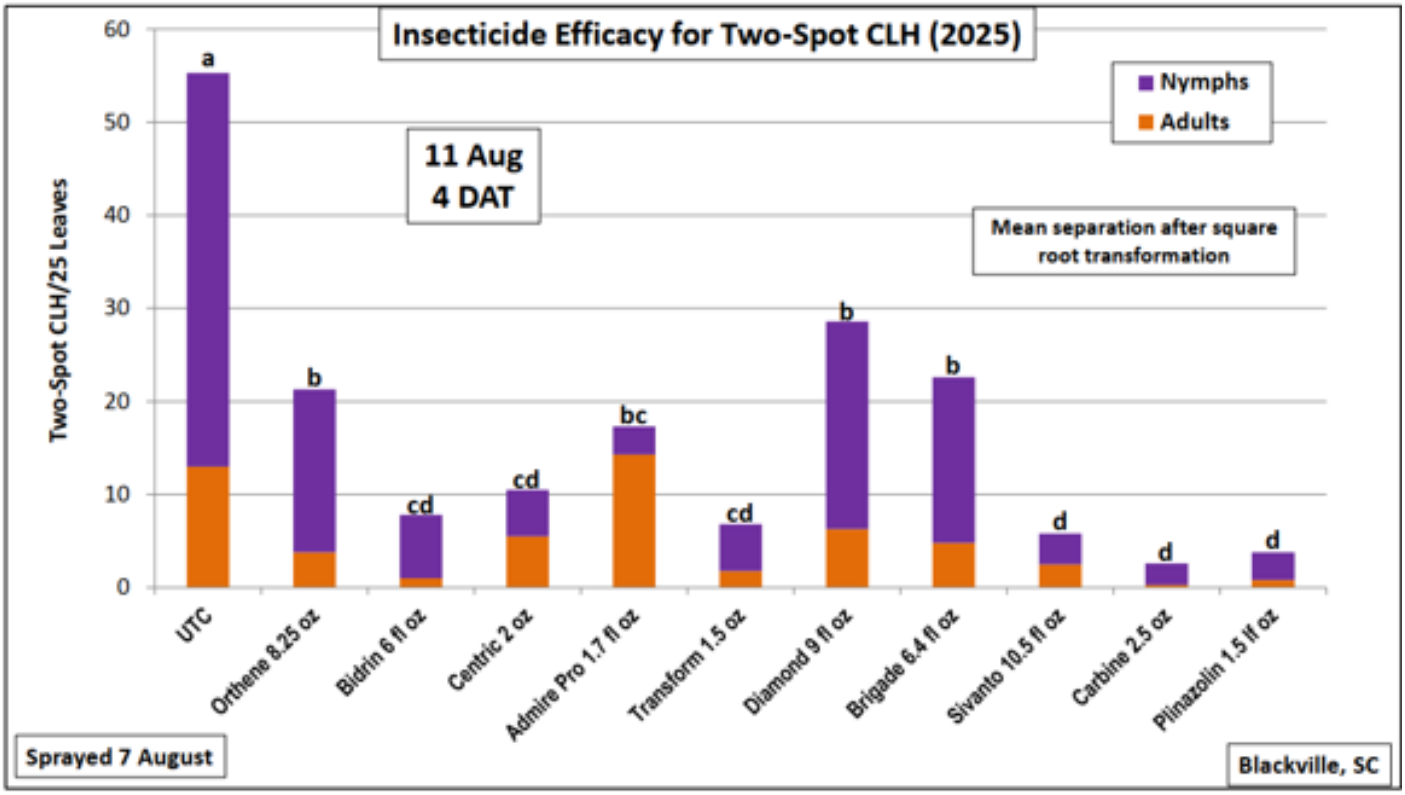
Cotton Jassid

Colquitt County (4 DAT)



Cotton Jassid

Blackville SC (Dr. Jeremy Greene, Clemson)



Insecticide Selection

Low Whitefly Risk Areas

- Bidrin has been used in commercial fields with good results.
  - Bidrin percent control averaged 73 percent in the three trials (control seems better than this in commercial fields).
  - I have confidence in Bidrin but there are other options.
  - Pyrethroids (bifenthrin) will not provide acceptable control of jassids.

High Whitefly Risk Areas

- If you do not want to apply Bidrin then what?
  - Centric percent control was 68 percent in the three trials (have received some positive comments from field applications. Transform looks similar to Centric in two trials which included each. Will need to tank mix with pyrethroid to control stink bugs.
  - Assail and Argyle (premix of bifenthrin and Assail) is an option when whiteflies are present.
  - Again there are other options.

Our data set is limited, but at least we have this.

- This is an EVOLVING situation.
- We will provide updates as new information becomes available (we will try to be concise).
- I was asked how bad jassids can be in terms of yield? From what I have read from India can vary from 100 lbs/a up to 50 percent yield loss. What happens in Georgia is TBD.
- I was also asked how long do we have to worry about jassids? Again we have a lot to learn and that is TBD. But you do need green leaves to fill bolls.
- Please let me know if you make interesting observations.

2025 Georgia Corn Production Contest With high yields, lets get some entries in!

2025 GEORGIA CORN PRODUCTION CONTEST

The Georgia Corn Production Contest (High Yield) is designed to recognize the State's growers who produce high yields, and to gather valuable extension data regarding production practices necessary to obtain those yields.

Any Georgia corn grower is eligible to enter the contest. A grower may make more than one entry, and are encouraged to make more than one entry. To participate, the grower must contact their local UGA County Extension Agent, at least two days prior to harvest, so they may be present during the harvest process and conduct the supervised yield check.

The harvest area must consist of six or more adjacent rows (excluding edge of field border rows or skips larger than planted corn row spacing) and be a minimum of 1.25 contiguous acres in one field. Field measurements are to be made by the county agent and should consist of two width measurements (along the front and back of the harvested area, which should equal the number of rows multiplied by the row width), length of the first and last harvested row, and length half-way between the first and last row. Immediately prior to harvest, the agent must have the grower run the combine and auger until clean and make sure any transport equipment has been emptied. After harvest, corn should be weighed on a state inspected scale (grain cart scales CANNOT be used). The original weigh ticket, with the company who owns the scale and the name of the person who weighed the load, must be turned in with the entry form. Corn moisture must be determined by a local grain buyer or calculated by an experienced person with moisture tester (if using this method, use the average of three consecutive readings). Each entry is to be accompanied with a complete description of variable production practices, which will be used to compare production costs as well as to determine the combination of management practices leading to high yield.

Recognition of production winners will be made at the annual UGA Corn Short Course hosted at the Tifton Conference Center. Awards will be presented to the highest state yields for irrigated and non-irrigated corn. Please provide as much detail as possible surrounding production practices as the information garnered through this program will assist in guiding the Georgia Grains Team future research and extension efforts. Grower specific information will never be shared, but general production practices may be summarized for use in local county level meetings (e.g. Plant Population by Row Spacing, Tissue Sampling regimen, etc.).

Entries should be mailed to Dr. Nicholas Shay (229) 339-7744 at 2360 Rainwater Rd., Tifton, GA 31793 or emailed to nicholas.shay@uga.edu

Entries for the National Corn Growers Association High Yield contest will also be accepted and the National Entry Form may be submitted in place of the state entry form. Entries should be received no later than December 1st of the current year.

Extension Value added services:

There are several resources your county agent has access to for assisting the public:

- **SpotOn Digital Sprayer Calibrator & nozzle cleaner tool** - Accurate flow rate checking of individual sprayer nozzles.
    - **Fertilizer Spinner-Disc Spreader Calibration** - spread pattern testing of fertilizer spreaders.
    - **Hay Moisture Tester –** Evaluation and assessment of hay to bale at optimum moisture content - decrease mold growth and increase feed value. Test baled or unbaled (in field)
    - **Forced Motor Planter Calibration –** at-plant insecticide hopper box calibrations. Potential benefits: increase insecticide application efficacy with the appropriate and effective application of product label and recommended control rate. Decrease
    - **Mobile Irrigation Lab** – Pivot efficiency evaluation/Irrigation audits to support water conservation and decrease irrigation costs.
    - **Harvest Moisture Testing** – Corn and soybean moisture testing to decrease drying time and fuel costs.
    - **Enviroscape Watershed Model -** Environmental education programming tool. Interactive demonstration of the sources and effects of water pollution. Present and illustrate watershed/stormwater concept.
    - **Rainfall Simulator Tabletop Educational Program tool -**
    - **Digital wind meter educational tool** – Anemometer measures wind speed to support safe pesticide applications and reduce drift.
    - **Pivot Calibrations**
    - **Drone imagery/scouting**