UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION
Ben Hill County

BEN HILL COUNTY AGRICULTURE NEWS

Sat 09	83°/73°	PM Thunderstorms	49%	ENE 9 mph
Sun 10	84°/73°	PM Thunderstorms	57%	ENE 8 mph
Mon 11	84°/73°	Scattered Thunderstorms	58%	E 6 mph
Tue 12	86°/73°	Scattered Thunderstorms	51%	SE 5 mph
Wed 13	88°/74°	Showers	41%	SW 5 mph
Thu 14	90°/74°	Isolated Thunderstorms	34%	W 4 mph
Fri 15	91°/74°	Partly Cloudy	24%	WNW 4 mph
Sat 16	91°/74°	Partly Cloudy	24%	NNE 3 mph
Sun 17	89°/73°	Partly Cloudy	24%	ENE 4 mph
Mon 18	89°/73°	Partly Cloudy	24%	ENE 5 mph
Tue 19	89°/73°	Partly Cloudy	24%	NE 6 mph
Wed 20	89°/73°	Partly Cloudy	24%	NNE 7 mph
Thu 21	88°/72°	PM Thunderstorms	37%	N 8 mph
Fri 22	88°/72°	Isolated Thunderstorms	31%	NNW 7 mph

(Forecast from The Weather Channel for Ben Hill County)

Cooler temperatures, overcast skies, and rain in the forecast!

UGA Podcasts:

Link to **peanut** podcast page-

https://creators.spotify.com/pod/show/allaboutthepod/episodes/Episode-4--Season-2----Discussion-of-Grower-Meeting-Survey-Questions-Asked-at-Production-Meetings-e2vrrvh

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.

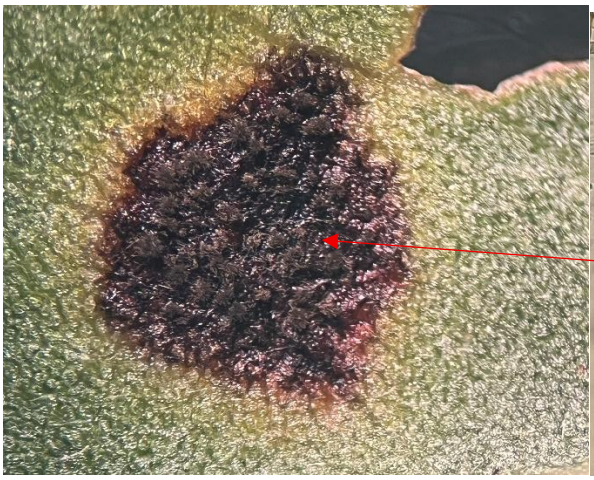
Some things to consider…

1. With frequent rain, be sure to time fungicide applications accordingly. Several fields are too wet to enter at this time.
2. Fungicide applications for white mold have benefit with rain or irrigation afterwards to wash the fungicide down into the plant canopy and soil surface where the white mold is!
3. Leaf spot applications should not be watered in. The leaf spot disease is on the foliage, therefore the fungicide should stay on the foliage!

False White Mold! (*Phanerochaete*)

This can commonly be mistaken for White Mold (*Sclerotium*). Notice the orange fungal structures. This is an identifying feature of the FALSE white mold. Though it can look threatening, it causes no harm.

This is the "real" White mold. Notice in the picture how the fungus is contained. This is proof that the fungicide program is working. Remember that fungicide applications for white mold should be watered in or sprayed at night so the fungicide can reach the bottom of the canopy where the fungicide is.

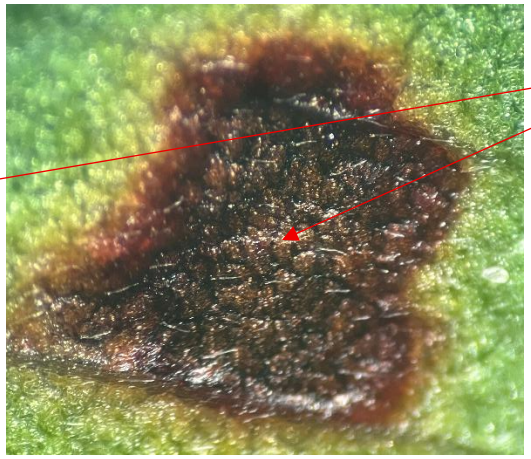


Late Leaf Spot has been found in Ben Hill County! (top pictures) in a field that is peanuts behind peanuts.

This does not mean every spot out there is leaf spot. Notice the "fuzzy" bottom of the spot on the top right, this is sign of fungal activity.

The bottom pictures show "leaf spots" but are **not** pathogenic. If the spots have a tan center or chemical residue, this is sign of chemical burn**, not leaf spot**.

Remember, fungicide applications need to stay on the foliage! It is not recommended to spray for leaf spot before a rain event.



Tomato Spotted Wilt (TSWV) has started to show up more these last few weeks! I will be out this moth taking TSWV incident counts!

Insects on Peanuts?

So far, I have not seen many foliage feeding caterpillars. Though there is some damage, the worm pressure is not high. A lot of the damage seen is from grasshoppers, as they are very prevalent. However, grasshoppers typically do not cause yield loss.

I have received many questions about leaf hoppers that cause hopper burn as shown. This normally does not cause yield loss and very high presser, which I have not seen, is needed **to economically justify an insecticide application**.

Cotton Update:

The cotton around varies drastically in age. Older cotton, as shown, is getting close to the point of no more Pix applications.

Dr. Camp Hand on When to quit the Pix!

My favorite method is to determine the cut-out status of the plant. To keep it simple, count the number of nodes that are above the white flower. When this number is 3, the plant is cut-out and does not need any more growth regulator. There is some debate on the number, as some say 5, particularly outside of Georgia. Nevertheless, when the plant reaches cut-out, the plant has reached its capacity for supporting fruiting positions and likely will not develop any, if there are no additional fruiting sites.

I do not like to recommend over 16 ounces in any situation as I think more is not always good or will result in more positive outcome. In drought-stressed fields that still have unused Nitrogen, it is possible these fields will need to be revisited, especially if the plant starts growing and putting on additional fruit.

Determining nodes above white flower (NAWF)

From the **uppermost first position white flower** to the **uppermost unfurled leaf**!

When this section is **7 NAWF or LESS, don't spray UNLESS 4/5th internode is stretching**.

If NAWF is 7 or MORE, spray!

Though this example is less than 7 NAWF, that 4/5 internode is stretched, therefore it could use another shot.

The Two-spot cotton leaf hopper, **JASSID**, or “Jasshole” as some call it…

Native to the Indian Subcontinent, east to Japan.

Found in Florida in 2024

In many Ga Counties

I have identified this insect in Ben Hill County, but the population is low and does not pose a threat!

We do know this pest loves okra plants and is reproducing in cotton fields

This insect is very small with two identifiable spots on its back, to not be confused with a leaf hopper or potato hopper.

The symptomology is very similar to potash deficiency in cotton. The leaves have an identifiable cupping of the leaves and chlorotic symptomology. If you happen to see this in your cotton felds, please let the Extension office know.

We are trying to monitor this insect to learn as much as we can.

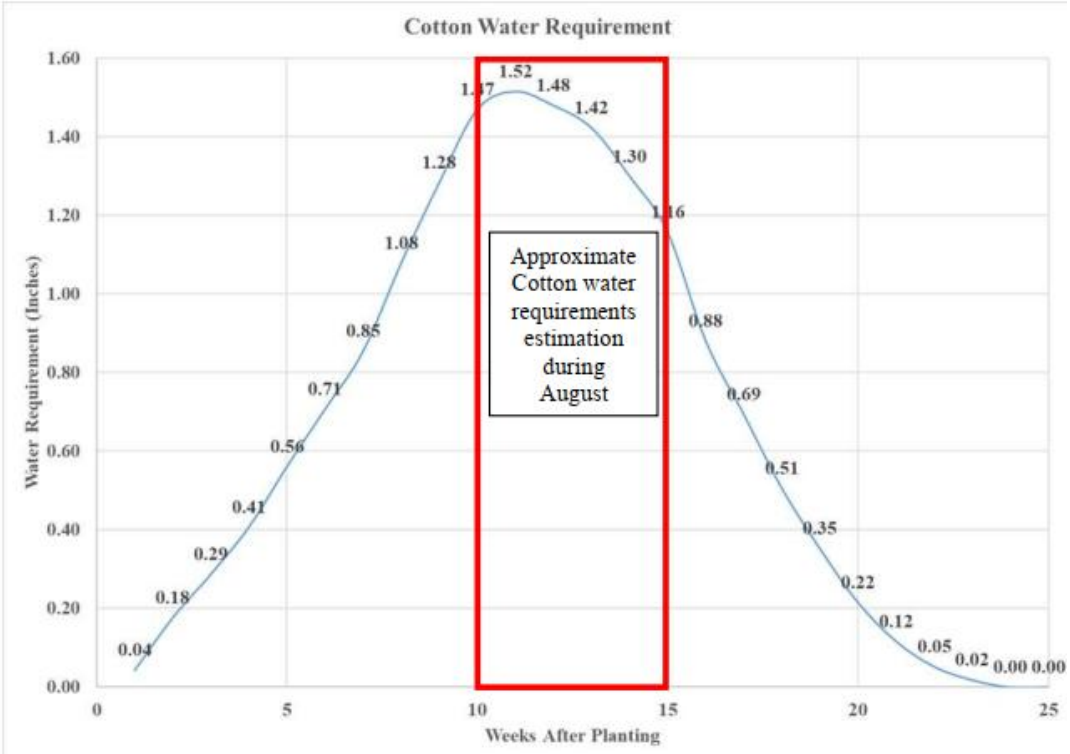
I have noticed more Jassids on the edges of fields, ones close to a wood line.

Check cotton edges!!!

These are insects that are common in cotton that I have seen.

These can be confused with Jassids due to their size and shape (both very small), but they are not.

Cotton Irrigation Considerations for August (*Wesley Porter*):



With the recent sporadic heavy rainfalls we have received, many may think we are good for a while. How much rain ran off and how much infiltrated? And how much will my soil hold? Both questions are related to the characteristics of your soil which will vary from farm to farm and field to field across the state The point is that **just because we received 2.5 inches, we may not have but 0.75" or 1" of soil moisture in plant available water** according to rainfall intensity and soil conditions.

UGA Cotton Checkbook, with the estimated water use period highlighted

Corn Update:

Corn is being pulled! I've heard many great things about the yields this year.

Here is some information from **Dr. Toews** our Associate Dean for Extension on **On-Farm Corn Storage**

Successful on-farm grain storage in Georgia requires **starting clean**, temperature and moisture control through **aeration**, storing grain at an appropriate **moisture content**, and use of a **protectant** if the grain will be stored for more than 6 months. Prior to filling, empty bins need to be swept or vacuumed and treated a few days before filling with a residual insecticide like **Tempo SC or Centynal Synergized**. Don't forget to clean out and treat **augers, driers, and false floors** as these areas tend to hold insects year-round. Exterior premises should be maintained by sealing and **draining water** away from the facility, removing vegetation near the structure, and promptly **cleaning up spilled grain**.

Grain protectants, insecticides labeled for application to shelled grain, are intended to prevent stored grain insect infestations. Top performing protectants that are available for use on corn this year include **Actellic 5E** and **Gravista**. **Sensat** has performed well in tests but is being discontinued and new product is not available. Less expensive protectants like **Centynal EC, Diacon IGR, and D-Fense SC** simply provide shorter residual protection. **Do not use malathion** as it doesn't perform well under Georgia conditions. When possible, grain protectants should be applied to cool grain that is of proper storage moisture with minimal dockage and fines. Apply protectants at the bottom of the auger so the insecticide can thoroughly coat the kernels as they are conveyed up the auger. Properly treated grain at the labelled rate is safe for human and animal consumption.

After the bin is full, make sure to **level the grain surface** and avoid any grain from touching the roof. Methods to level the grain include using a spreader during loading, manually leveling the peak with shovels or a board, or pulling a load out after the bin is full.

Stored grain insects and pathogens develop faster in warm and moist grain so **reducing grain temperature and moisture** with aeration is critical. The best way to manage grain temperature and moisture is to install a controller that operates the bin fan(s) when the air temperature is more than 10 degrees cooler than grain temperature. Grain stored for more than just a few weeks needs to be brought down to 14.5% moisture or less. While it is more efficient to pull air from the top and out the bottom than to push air from the bottom and out the top, but both methods can provide satisfactory results. Ideally, grain temperatures need to be reduced to 70 degrees in late summer, then 60 degrees when possible, and finally 40 degrees when cooler air is available in the fall.

Fumigation is the only remedy for active insect infestations in stored grain.

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**