



August 26, 2021

Burke County Ag News

EPA is Revoking all Chlorpyrifos Tolerances for all Commodities

By Dr. Mark Abney (UGA Entomologist)

The following is an excerpt from a news release from EPA on 18 August 2021. The revocation of the tolerances for all commodities will be effective 6 months after the publication of the final rule in the Federal Register.

“WASHINGTON – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it will stop the use of the pesticide chlorpyrifos on all food to better protect human health, particularly that of children and farmworkers. In a final rule released today, EPA is revoking all “tolerances” for chlorpyrifos, which establish an amount of a pesticide that is allowed on food. In addition, the agency will issue a Notice of Intent to Cancel under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to cancel registered food uses of chlorpyrifos associated with the revoked tolerances.”

Peanut Entomology

Corn Rootworms in Peanuts Have Been Worse in Wet Weather.

Rootworms are the larvae of cucumber beetles (spotted cucumber beetle and banded cucumber beetle), and they thrive in the moist soil conditions that have been prevalent in most peanut fields so far in 2021. High risk fields are those with heavy soil texture and irrigation. Growers in some areas in Georgia have been scouting for rootworms. Take a look at the video Dr. Abney put together on scouting for rootworms. You can use this link to watch the video or the QR code below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHwplpZ3pv8&t=18s>



The only proven management tactic for rootworm is the application of granular chlorpyrifos and now EPA has stopped this application. Rootworm injury in untreated plots in UGA research trials in Plains last week exceeded 60%. That is, more than 60% of all the pods on the plants had rootworm feeding injury. If you think you find root worm or root worm damage on peanuts, please let me know.

August is Generally the Real Start of “Caterpillar Season” in Georgia Peanuts.

So far, our most common mid to late summer foliage feeders, velvetbean caterpillar and soybean looper, have been relatively scarce, but please keep an eye on your peanut fields.

We also need to be watching for fall armyworm. Correctly identifying caterpillars is important for selecting the most efficacious and lowest cost insecticide.



Threecornered Alfalfa Hopper Populations Always Build Late in the Season,

These insects tend to thrive in wet conditions, so expect to possibly see higher numbers.

The impact of three-cornered alfalfa hopper feeding on yield is variable, but no one has ever documented severe yield loss in GA-06G. Dr. Abney believes that with high enough numbers a pyrethroid application can be justified in irrigated fields where the risk of spider mites is minimal. Even with the abundant rain in 2021, I would not treat non-irrigated fields with a pyrethroid.

There are no other practical insecticide options for this insect in peanut.

Managing Target Spot and Areolate Mildew

(by Dr. Bob Kemeraït):

Target spot (*Corynespora cassiicola*) and areolate mildew (*Ramulariopsis gossypii*) are the two most important diseases affecting cotton in Georgia later in the growing season. For both target spot and areolate mildew, judicious use of fungicides not only protects the crop, but can increase yield profitability as well.

Another disease, *Stemphylium* leaf spot, is often even more common than either target spot or areolate mildew in Georgia's cotton crop. However, as *Stemphylium* leaf spot results from a deficiency of potassium within the plant, to date use of fungicides has not proven to be an effective management strategy.

As of this month (August 2021), target spot has been widely found in cotton growing in southern Georgia. Abundant rain, high humidity, and rank growth of some cotton all contribute to the increased importance of target spot this season. Areolate mildew has not yet been confirmed in the state, but it is only a matter of time before it is found.

Presented below is a slide of the fungicides currently labeled for management of target spot and results from recent on-farm trials conducted in Colquitt County with UGA Extension agent Jeremy Kichler. The two fungicides that have performed "best" against target spot have been Priaxor and Miravis Top, close behind this pair has been Headline. Unfortunately, it seems that none of these fungicides are readily available this season to cotton growers in Georgia. This leaves azoxystrobin (sold under various trade names). Azoxystrobin is a fair-to-good fungicide for control of target spot; it is a good-to-very-good fungicide for control of areolate mildew. Amistar Top, a combination of azoxystrobin and difenconazole, is another fungicide that could be considered when Priaxor, Miravis Top, and Headline are in short supply. The use rate for Amistar Top is 8-11.6 fl oz/A.

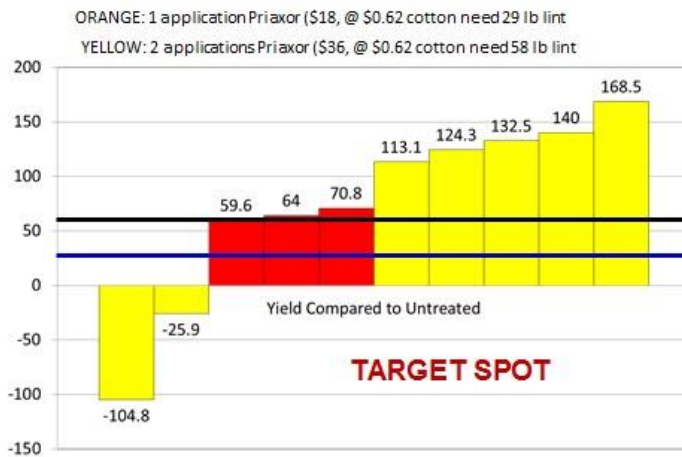
Growers should consider protecting their cotton crop from target spot between the 1st and 6th weeks of bloom IF the disease is present, or is likely to develop, and conditions are favorable for development and spread, and IF the crop has good yield potential. (As from earlier, conditions for development and spread of target spot are EXCELLENT in 2021.) Judicious use of fungicides can protect as much as 250 lb of lint where target spot is problematic. Where the crop is suffering from drought or poor growth from other causes, protection against target spot with a fungicide may not be warranted.



Fungicides for Foliar Diseases of Cotton

- Headline (pyraclostrobin) (6 fl oz/A) 
- Twinline (pyraclostrobin + metconazole) (7-8.5 fl oz) 
- Quadris (azoxystrobin) (6 or 9 fl oz/A) 
- AzoxyStar (azoxystrobin) (6 or 9 fl oz/A) 
- Tebuzol 3.6F (tebuconazol) (6-8 fl oz/A)
 - Labeled for control of southwestern cotton rust
 - *Puccinia cacabata*
- PROLINE (prothioconazole) (5.0-5.7 fl oz/A) 
- PRIAXOR (4.0-6.0 fl oz/A) 
- MIRAVIS TOP (13.6 fl oz) 
- Elatus 
- TOPGUARD (flutriafol) 

2016-2018 Lint Yield vs Untreated



Areolate mildew will be a problem for Georgia’s cotton in 2021. Prior to 2017, this disease was usually restricted to the southeastern part of our cotton production region and often occurred so late in the season as to be inconsequential. However, since 2017 areolate mildew has been found over a wider area of Georgia’s cotton production and also earlier in the season. Areolate mildew that occurs within four weeks of when a grower intends to defoliate a cotton crop will likely have minimal effect on yield. Areolate mildew occurring earlier can affect yield and profit.

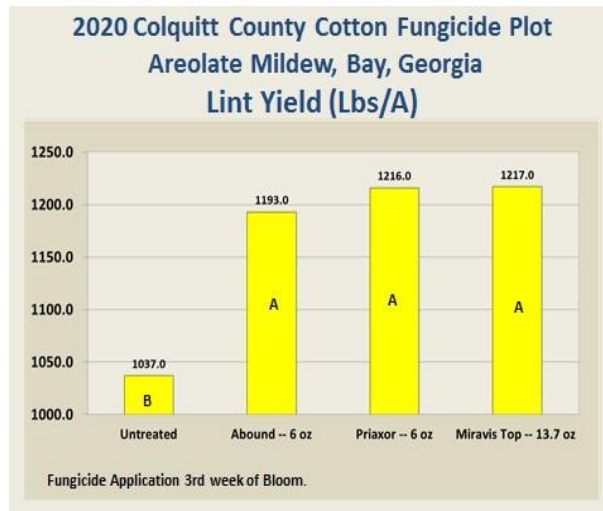
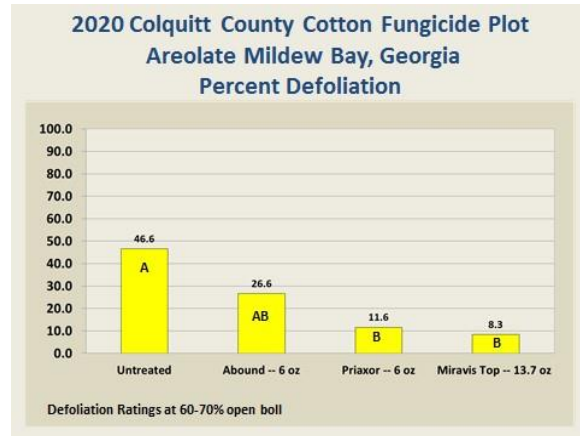
Areolate mildew is easier to control than is target spot, because the disease is more exposed on the upper foliage of the cotton plant than is target spot, which develops deep in the canopy. The same fungicides that protect the cotton crop against target spot also protect against areolate mildew. However, while azoxystrobin is less effective against target spot than are Priaxor or Miravis Top, azoxystrobin has been effective against areolate mildew.



Growers are **CAUTIONED** that azoxystrobin is a single-site mode of action fungicide and that multiple applications of this fungicide alone in a season will hasten development of fungicide resistance.

Presented below are images of areolate mildew as well as results from field trials in Colquitt County (Jeremy Kichler).

Areolate Mildew



For more information contact please give us a call at (706)554-2119.

Thank You,

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Burke County Extension