

MOTH TRAP CATCH REPORT AND INSECT PEST UPDATE SEPTEMBER 16, 2017

Tim Reed, Ron Smith and Alana Jacobson

During the period 9/6 – 9/12 moth trap catch numbers for cotton bollworm were lower in comparison to the previous week with the highest catch reported in Baldwin county (59 moths). The tobacco budworm moth trap catch was also low with the highest catch in Autauga county. (31 moths). The soybean looper moth trap catch was significant at 4 of the 5 trapping sites with the highest number recorded in Limestone county (475 moths).

Inspecting soybean fields in extreme western Alabama on September 12 and 13 revealed that the red banded stink bug (=RBSB) has become well established in the region from Baldwin county to Pickens county. Soybeans were sampled in Baldwin, Marengo, Dallas Perry, Sumter, Pickens and Tuscaloosa counties and RBSB's were easily found in all these counties except Tuscaloosa. Fields sampled in Tuscaloosa had been treated with bifenthrin 10 days earlier and this significantly reduced stink bug numbers. The greatest density of RBSB's was found in unsprayed test plots at the Fairhope Research Station in Baldwin county. The average density per 3 row foot of adults plus immatures in test plots in which a total of 50 three-row-foot drop cloth samples were taken was 1.4 RBSB's (26% adults), 0.69 southern green stink bugs (15% adults), and 0.4 brown stink bugs (20% adults). Inspection of soybean pods in these 6 counties showed low levels of stink bug- damaged beans within pods in the upper portion of the canopy. All these soybean fields that were surveyed for stink bugs were in the R6 to R7 stage. The southern green stink bug was the most abundant stink bug in the other counties and it comprised at least 90% of all stink bugs present in these 5 counties. No brown marmorated stink bugs were found in any of the surveyed fields. If winter temperatures do not significantly reduce numbers of these stink bugs, which could potentially overwinter, then growers could see worrisome numbers of stink bugs, including RBSB's in next year's crops. Foliage-feeding caterpillars were also abundant in some of the fields. The soybean looper was the most common worm observed in all counties except Sumter where velvetbean caterpillars were very abundant (greater than 3/sweep) in R2 stage soybeans.

Some 6- to 10-day-old escaped bollworms were found in top cotton bolls in one DPL variety in Monroe County on 9/12 providing more evidence that we are seeing reduced effectiveness in the ability of dual-gene cotton to prevent bollworm damage in cotton. During the last 3 years there appears to have been a gradual loss in efficacy of dual-gene cotton in preventing boll damage by bollworms. Sampling of cotton test plots at the Wiregrass Research station and field reports indicated that the wind and rain from Hurricane Irma reduced the number of silverleaf white fly (SLWF) adults by 90% and washed away much of the honey dew on the leaves. Immatures are still present and could still impact lint quality but the level to which this will occur appears to have been reduced. This may be the only positive effect from Irma which has reduced lint weight and grade index plus has made cotton harder to defoliate and harvest.

Cursor down to view moth activity data



Alabama Moth Trap Catch Numbers for September 6 -September 12, 2017

County	Bollworm			Tobacco Budworm			Soybean Looper		
	9/6-9/12	8/29-9/5	2nd WK Sept. 2016	9/6-9/12	8/29-9/5	2nd WK Sept. 2016	9/6-9/12	8/29-9/5	2nd WK Sept. 2016
Henry	0	0	5	*TD	25	11	**NT	NT	NT
Baldwin	59	265	243	NT	NT	2	284	368	249
Escambia	1	4	2	NT	NT	NT	65	372	50
Elmore	22	44	215	2	24	48	324	500	318
Autauga	0	3	24	31	18	8	382	740	861
Limestone	17	51	76	0	6	40	475	392	840

*TD= Trap Down

NT = Not Trapped