Dorchester/Berkeley County Crop Update

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CLEMSON COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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Scouting in the St. George Area

Soybean Official Variety Trial in Reevesville

I've been out scouting soybeans for several weeks now. I have not seen many fields yet though that are over threshold for insects and I would recommend spraying. Please be sure to scout your fields before spraying or give me a call to come out and scout. Here's the insects I've seen this week in the greater St. George area:

Reevesville Area, I scouted a few fields with pods filling and found 4-8 small soybean loopers, but no kudzu bugs or three cornered alfalfa hoppers. One sweep found 3 large corn earworms, but this wasn't at threshold since one sweep is ~3 row feet. Defoliation ~5%. Did not recommend spraying.

Grover/Wire Rd. Area, I scouted several fields with pods filling in this area and identified corn earworm, armyworm, soybean looper, green cloverworm, and alfalfa leaf hoppers. None of these pests were over threshold or threatened stand. Defoliation <5%. Found one brown stink bug, no kudzu bugs. Did not recommend spraying.

St. George/Quaker Rd. Area, I scouted a field that was flowering and found ~6 small soybean loopers/green cloverworm per sweep, a corn earworm, and an armyworm, >10 kudzu bug nymphs. Defoliation <5%. I would recommend spraying a pyrethroid for kudzu bugs.

Harleyville Area, I scouted a field that was flowering and found ~6 small soybean loopers/green cloverworms per sweep, several three cornered alfalfa hoppers, an armyworm, and one brown stink bug. Defoliation <5%. Did not recommend spraying.

I also scouted a field with beans filling out and found ~2 soybean loopers/green cloverworms per sweep, 2+ kudzu bug nymphs, and one green stink bug. Defoliation 5-10%. Did not recommend spraying due to growth stage.

Irrigation scheduling for soybeans

In order to maximize yield in irrigated soybeans, assuring proper soil moisture is important. The lack of late season irrigation is often responsible for a soybean crop not reaching its full potential. Ensuring adequate moisture during seed fill will allow for beans to reach their maximum size and increase yields. Here's a water use chart to help with your irrigation scheduling.

Crop Development	Water Use (Inches/Day)
Germination and seedling	0.05-0.10
Rapid Vegetative Growth	0.10-0.20
Flowering to pod fill (full canopy)	0.20-0.30
Maturity to Harvest	0.05-0.20

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Weed Profile: Cypressvine Morningglory

I've seen a lot of cypressvine morningglory growing in soybean fields lately. This annual twining vine is a member of the morning glory family. Another common name for it is cypress vine. It is a common invasive plant in the Southeast. While some people plant it in their yards to attract hummingbirds, this plant is a problem come harvest time in agriculture.

Cypressvine morningglory can grow 20 feet or more. It is easy to identify by it's feather-like vine and star shaped red flowers. The vine is smooth, relatively thin, and fragile. The plant has round to oval capsules containing 4 seeds which mature in late-summer and early fall.

Flower of Cypressvine Morningglory

Cypressvine morningglory causes problems in soybean, cotton, peanuts, corn, and can even overtake young timber. There aren't many control options for this vine this time of year. It is also difficult to find herbicide ratings. In soybeans, it is recommended to spray glyphosate with a surfactant to slow down it's growth, but this herbicide will not kill it. When it is time to harvest, paraquat may be used as a harvest aid to dessicate the vines and help with harvest.

Cypressvine Morningglory in Soybeans

Disease Update and Fungicide Decision Making

So far this year, disease pressure in soybeans has been very low. No soybean rust has been found in South Carolina. The closest area that rust has been found is in northern Florida and the Southeast Farm Press reported that it has been found in Autauga County, Alabama. Although this disease can travel quickly depending on the weather, it does not look like it is headed for South Carolina any time soon. I will send out updates as it gets closer in Georgia and when it is found in South Carolina. While out scouting fields, I have not seen evidence of any other disease in this area. This time of year I am looking for frog eye leaf spot, target spot, pod diseases, and stem diseases. All of these have the possibility of decreasing yield potential.

Now, the first question is– to spray a preventative fungicide or wait? Fungicides protect a crop from rust and other disease for 21 days and we cannot spray fungicides after R6 (pods contain full size green seeds at one of the four uppermost nodes) so timing is critical. My recommendation would be to look at the growth stage of your beans and consider whether it will protect your soybeans through maturity. If your beans are Group 5s and already have pods with seeds starting in them, then one application may protect your beans through to maturity. If your beans are at an earlier growth stage, I would look at the condition of your beans and the weather forecast– disease favors wet, moist conditions– and determine if they are at a high risk for disease. Drilled beans on narrow rows will stay wetter than those on 38" rows. If they are in good condition, I would wait to apply fungicide.

The second question is- does the cost of spraying the fungicide make sense? With November contracts on soybeans at $10.61 a bushel, spraying a fungicide that costs more than that should be given some serious thought. If you have contracts for higher priced beans, then you have more incentive to spray a fungicide and protect that potential yield. You also need to factor in application costs and an extra herbicide that may be needed. Since fungicide tends to cause stems to stay greener longer, this will delay harvest and increase shattering unless you kill the beans earlier.

Unlike peanuts if you don't spray a fungicide, you will still make beans. Most growers I've talked to are more interested in maximizing yield than saving input costs. If you are spending $22 to put out two applications of fungicide though and only save one bushel of $11 beans, then you are wasting your money. I know it is tempting to see the dark green leaves that a fungicide application may give you, but remind yourself of the bottom line and hold off on the fungicide for now.

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August/September 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13

Upcoming Events:
September 4th, Thursday– Peanut Field Day, Edisto REC
September 9th, Tuesday– Crops Field Day, Pee Dee REC

Soybean Leaf Defoliation Guide

Many thresholds for determining when to spray insecticides involve percent leaf defoliation. Estimating leaf or canopy defoliation can be more difficult than you may think. We like to see green leaves with no insect damage and when we do notice holes being eaten it is easy to drastically overestimate leaf defoliation.

Overestimating defoliation often leads to spraying insecticide when it is not needed. The best way to correctly estimate defoliation is by using this simple chart which gives a visual representation of the area lost with the percent defoliation.

When determining when to spray for corn earworm, green cloverworm, soybean loopers, tobacco budworm, and beet armyworms, the SC Pest Management Handbook indicates that treatment is appropriate if defoliation exceeds 15-20% after mid-bloom or 30% before mid-bloom. After pods appear, treat for 2 or more CEW or 6-8 large loopers per row foot. Ignore those hole-y leaves and wait to spray once insect thresholds are reached.