

Cumberland County Center
301 E. Mountain Dr
Fayetteville NC 28306
910-321-6875 or 910-321-6872
website: <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/cumberland>

CUMBERLAND COUNTY AGRICULTURE UPDATE

September 2005



Tobacco News

I have sent several samples in to the Plant Disease & Insect Clinic that were diagnosed as fusarium wilt. The predominant initial symptoms of fusarium wilt are slow yellowing and drying of the leaves on one side of the plant. The leaves on the affected side of the plant are usually slow to develop and the mid ribs may curl, resulting in distortion. The top of the plant may be drawn toward the diseased side, and wilting eventually occurs. Newly infected plants may not wilt at first. The wood beneath the outer bark of the stem on the affected side of the plant will be chocolate brown. Such discoloration can also be seen in the mid ribs of affected leaves and in roots. Portions of the root systems on the affected side are usually blackened and killed. The symptoms of Fusarium wilt and Granville wilt are similar and may be confused. The bacterial streaming characteristic of Granville wilt is not seen in plants infected with Fusarium wilt and is a reliable way to distinguish between the two diseases. Fusarium wilt development is frequently accompanied by root-knot nematode infection. To manage this disease, proper fumigation before planting with Telone C17 and good destruction of stems and roots during cultivation post season, is recommended.



I have some data available from Loren Fisher which summarizes some of their MH free tests. If anyone is interested please let me know.

Inside this issue:

Cotton News	2
Soybean News	3
Small Grain News	4

Pesticide Recertification Corner

The last scheduled pesticide recertification class in Cumberland County will be:

Thursday, September 15, 2005 – 1 to 3 p.m., Private Applicator Training (V) – Extension Office auditorium

Thursday, Septem-

ber 15, 2005 – 6 to 8 p.m., Specialty Training (X) – Extension Office auditorium (This will be the last opportunity)

Additional pesticide recertification classes in other areas can be found on the NCDA Pesticide Section Website at: <http://www.ncagr.com/>

[fooddrug/pesticid/recert.htm](http://www.ncagr.com/fooddrug/pesticid/recert.htm)

Anyone who has not met the requirements for recertification should have gotten a letter in the mail. If you are not sure of the hours you have, please call me at 321-6875 and I will look it up for you.

I hope you find this newsletter helpful and informative. If you have ideas or suggestions for future issue, please call or stop by the office. I always welcome your feedback!

Colby S. Lambert

Colby S. Lambert
Extension Agent
Agriculture
910-321-6875
colby_lambert@ncsu.edu

Cotton News

From Keith Edminsten

A lot of our acreage is under severe drought stress. The crop in these areas has matured more quickly than I imagined possible. I often get calls from merchants and cotton marketers in May and June and I tell them it doesn't matter now, the crop will go the way of August rains. I should I listen to my own advice more!

How do you defoliate a drought stressed crop? I would start with a herbicidal defoliant (Aim, ET, Folex/Def, Harvade ect.) and build from there. Are you going to pick the cotton soon? If so concentrate on a boll opener (generic Preps, Finish or CottonQuik) to add to your herbicidal defoliant. Concentrate on getting the bolls open and the picker in the field. If you are not going to pick for a while you might want to consider Dropp or Ginstar to help reduce regrowth. Ginstar is a great defoliant. It has herbicidal activity (diuron/ Karmex) and also has Dropp to help with existing regrowth and regrowth inhibition. Unfortunately it has been priced out of the market in the past.



OK now you have decided that you need to add a boll opener or regrowth material (Roundup is good on non-Roundup Ready cotton) based on harvest timing. In the drought stressed areas I would still use 8 oz. of Prep or the equivalent from Finish or CottonQuik. This will help the defoliation activity of the herbicidal defoliants (Aim, ET, Folex/Def, Harvade ect.) especially on drought stressed cotton. This rate will do very little for boll-opening but help with defoliation.

If I were defoliating now, I would want some amount of ethephon included. The rate would depend on whether I wanted boll-opening or defoliation enhancement.

One more thing. Aim and ET are good on morningglories alone. If you want to dessicate morningglories Harvade, it is good if used with some ethephon containing product. Aim and ET do not depend on ethophon to help with morningglories like Harvade does.

From: Jack S. Bacheler, Extension Entomologist, NCSU

Cotton Insect Situation

In North Carolina, cotton insects are winding down (or at least their potential for damaging cotton). I typically begin the damaged boll survey around September 1 and try to have it completed by September 15. Although it is not unusual to uncover moderate to high bollworm and/or stink bug damage to bolls that has taken place over the previous two months in some cotton fields, finding significant levels of live caterpillars or stink bugs on cotton from this time on is uncommon.

I had an interesting report of stink bugs this week from Scotland County. The agricultural Extension agent there noticed very high numbers of dead green stink bugs in about the first 50 feet of a cotton field across the road from recently harvested field corn. The grass strips along the road had also just been mowed. If this cotton field had not been a part of a recently sprayed stink bug test, the potential infestation probably would have gone unnoticed. This cotton field still had between 3 and 4 nodes above first position white flowers, and therefore could have sustained significant upper boll damage, at least the area bordering the corn. It might not hurt to check the borders of late cotton fields adjacent to corn fields that have recently been harvested. If a potential problem is noted, a single perimeter spray should "do the trick."

With the exception of a few late cotton fields that still merit checking, this insect season is about over. The levels of beet and fall armyworms, soybean loopers, and white flies occurring lately do not appear to be a risk. If regrowth becomes a significant problem in some early opening cotton fields, cotton aphids and their honeydew can occasionally cause headaches for growers. But even very scattered September and October rainfall here is almost always enough to eliminate potential sticky cotton and sooty mold problems.

The light trap data can be viewed on the Cumberland County Agriculture Website at:

http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/cumberland/ag/light_trap.shtml

Soybean News

Southern Soybean Stem Canker

A sample submitted to the North Carolina Plant Disease and Insect clinic, by CES agent Josh Beam of Lincoln County, was diagnosed as Southern soybean stem canker caused by the fungus *Diaporthe phaseolorum* var *meridionalis*. This disease has not been recorded in North Carolina previously. Southern stem canker causes substantial yield losses in susceptible varieties in the Mid-South and Delta. Management of this disease is through rotation and the use of resistant or tolerant varieties. Fungicides have rarely been effective in controlling southern stem canker.

Soybean Rust Update

As of 9/07/2005, soybean rust has not been confirmed in NC. Soybean rust has been confirmed in three South Carolina locations, two near the Georgia line close to Savannah and one location near Columbia. At this point, with most soybeans in early and advanced reproductive stages, even if soybean rust spores have been deposited by Hurricane Katrina, the disease would not show up for 2-3 weeks. At that point, SBR would not likely cause much yield loss beyond the field it shows up in, if any at all. The dry weather we have been experiencing over the past several weeks will do more damage to soybean yields than rust will. The dry weather does not favor rust development, so we probably won't see rust here anyway. Sentinel plots continue to be monitored weekly and several samples from kudzu, taken in the southern part of the state were taken to the lab for examination. All were negative for Asiatic soybean rust and rust has not been found in North Carolina thus far. Soybean downy mildew also has been quite severe this year. Neither disease usually requires management. Frogeye leaf spot and Target spot is very common in many areas of North Carolina, and the use of a strobilurin type fungicide or Chlorothalonil is recommended on susceptible varieties.

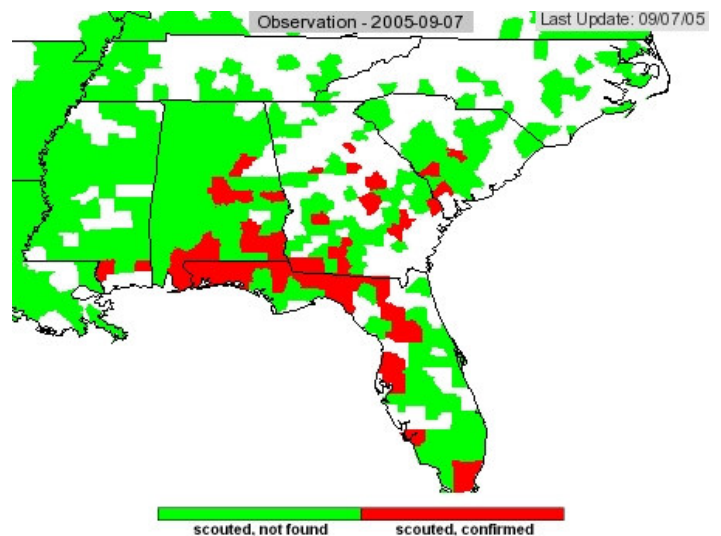
County Soybean Yield Contest

Those of you who would be interested in having a county soybean yield contest, please let me know. We will follow the same rules as the NC Soybean Producers Association. The top yielding producers in the county would then be summated for the state contest. To be eligible, a minimum of 3 acres of soybeans must be grown by the producers. Also, a minimum of 3 acres must be evaluated, with the field measurement and yield determination under the supervision of the County Extension Agent or the County Soybean Contest Committee if the growers choose to have a committee. The deadline for entries to the state contest will be around December 25, 2005. I would like to have the entries for the county contest about 2 weeks before, so that we can get the applications for the state contest in on time.

Please go to

www.soybean.ncsu.edu/soybean%5Fcontest/ for the 2004 rules and application form. The 2005 rules will essentially be the same. The trip for the state winners will be to Anaheim, CA in Feb, 2006, and there will be no 2nd and 3rd in the state awards in the MEY contest. We will initiate a 70 Bushel club this year, to recognize yields that high or higher.

Please call me at 321-6875 if you are interested. We will also give out county awards at the winter soybean meeting and recognize those who have high yields.



This map shows the distribution of Soybean Rust in the US as of September 7, 2005.

North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service
Cumberland County Center
301 E. Mountain Dr.
Fayetteville, NC 28306-3444

The use of brand names and any mention of commercial products or services in this publication do not imply endorsement by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned. Individuals who use chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. Be sure to obtain current information about usage and examine a current product label before applying any chemical.

Small Grain News

SMALL GRAINS CROP INSURANCE DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING

The Raleigh Regional Office of the USDA Risk Management Agency reminds farmers that September 30, 2005 is the final date to obtain crop insurance on wheat, barley, and oats. Current small grains policyholders also have until September 30 to make any changes to existing contracts. Price elections for the 2006 crop are \$2.80 per bushel for wheat, \$1.85 for barley, and \$1.33 for Oats. The Crop Revenue Coverage (CRC) plan of insurance is available for wheat in Delaware, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. The CRC plan offers guarantees against a drop in the market price. The Group Risk Plan (GRP) and the Group Risk Income Protection Plan (GRIP) are available in Delaware, Maryland, and North Carolina. The GRP and GRIP plans offer lower cost programs that are based on county-wide production, and do not require growers to report individual farm histories. Farmers should contact a local crop insurance agent as soon as possible for premium quotes and other details. For a list of crop insurance agents, farmers may contact their local USDA Farm Service Agency office or log on to the Risk Management Agency web site at <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/>



Corn Yield Contest

I know some of you are already picking corn, but if you are interested in a county corn yield contest and the state contest, please let me know. Again, the rules for the county contest will be the same as the state, and the county winners will be submitted to the state contest. Deadlines are November 16, 2005 for the state, so the county deadline will be November 18, 2005.