ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

Welcome to Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES)!

The main purpose of this newsletter is to provide readers information about IPM and other major crop issues through a single publication. IPM Communicator is geared toward streamlining the delivery of research-based IPM information directly from the desk to farmer’s field using teamwork and technology. **ALL articles that promote IPM and sustainable farming practices can be published in the IPM Communicator.** This newsletter fills the need for a rapid, statewide IPM publication that is capable of alerting crop producers, consultants, foresters, gardeners, Extension personnel and general public about pertinent crop issues. Currently, ~400 subscribers and many commercial websites receive or post this newsletter online resulting in a wide readership. Other readers can download or view the newsletter at ACES website. There is a multi-institutional editorial board that works swiftly each week to electronically deliver the newsletter every FRIDAY during the summer months. Research and Extension personnel from any educational institution in Alabama can submit IPM-related articles of high relevance for immediate release to audience; authors should pay attention to the guidelines for format and submission deadline (Wednesdays). For queries about this newsletter or to subscribe, please email bugdoctor@auburn.edu. Readers from other states should check with their university Extension before using any recommendation.

Editorial Board:

Chief Editor: Ayanava “Dr. A” Majumdar – Extension Entomologist & State SARE Coordinator, Auburn University

Board members: Henry Fadamiro – Associate Professor of Entomology & Plant Pathology Department, Alabama IPM Coordinator; Clement Akotsen-Mensah – Graduate Research Assistant, Entomology & Plant Pathology Department; Cathy Sabota - Professor of Horticulture, Alabama A&M University. Representative from Tuskegee University is pending decision; Conrad Bonsi — Professor and Associate Dean, Tuskegee University

Author guidelines are provided on the last page of this newsletter. Articles may be delayed for publication if they are not in the recommended format.

The Comprehensive IPM Newsletter from Alabama!

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**Entomology**

**INSECTICIDE RECOMMENDATIONS IN VEGETABLES**

This is a reminder to all crop producers and advisors dealing with insect pest issues in vegetables that the 2010 edition of the VEGETABLE CROP HANDBOOK is now available. This Handbook has been developed by the Southeastern Vegetable Extension Workers (SEVEW) Group which has members across 12 land-grant universities. Please get a copy in a book format from Extension or download and print your own copy from https://sites.aces.edu/group/commhort/vegetable/vegfactsheets/default.aspx (item #14 on the website). **Page 178** of the Handbook has a comprehensive table of various insecticide chemistries available for commercial vegetable producers. Notice the first column which indicates the chemical classes as designated by the Insecticide Resistance Action Committee (IRAC); there are 28 different chemistries available for insect control and some NEW ones have been added to the bottom of that table. Among many recent additions are the highly-selective feeding blockers for aphids (flonicamid or Beleaf®, pymetrozine or Fulfill®) and caterpillars (flubendiamide or Belt®, chlorantraniliprole or Coragen®) which rapidly affect muscular activity and stop insect feeding. Vegetable producers who have invested in drip irrigation units for their farm can take advantage of systemic insecticides such as imidacloprid and chlorantraniliprole. All producers should follow the insecticide label and the preharvest intervals. The main idea behind listing of insecticides by chemical classes is to encourage producers to rotate different insecticides with unique mode of action; insecticides with a broad range of action (e.g., synthetic pyrethroids) can be rotated with selective insecticides (different mode of action) as part of an “IPM Action Plan”. An IPM Action Plan is a management system that is based on insect pest detection and identification, intensive monitoring and scouting, field crop history, and other information which lead to site-specific IPM recommendations and actions. What is currently missing in the recommendations are listing of insecticide premixes; for those products, growers should get in touch with Extension personnel, company representatives or crop advisors for proper guidance.

**INSECT MONITORING NETWORK NOW ACTIVE IN 15 COUNTIES**

Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) Commercial Horticulture and Field Crop teams install and manage a network of insect pheromone traps each year as part of an educational campaign for crop producers who are an integral part of the network. In 2009, preliminary data from insect traps (run from May-October) accurately indicated insect outbreaks ahead of the worsening situation (several outbreaks of armyworms, lesser cornstalk borer, and tobacco budworm were reported from different parts of AL). In 2010, Extension teams are involving more producers in a bid to encourage the development of site-specific IPM action plans based on season-long pest monitoring. Each year ACES reaches out to different farmers to provide the experience of a comprehensive insect monitoring program. The 2010 trap network is now active in about 15 counties and reports on insect numbers will appear in subsequent issues of this newsletter. Growers are encouraged to conduct their own insect monitoring program for their farms using pheromones and learn from the experience. These traps are simple to use and maintain, and traps automatically identify insect pests which is a great benefit to field scouts. Contact ACES Regional Extension Agents and Specialists if you wish to participate in the learning experience. Results of 2010 IPM trap network will be posted on www.aces.edu/go/85 and also on the IPM hotline 1-800-446-0375.

Ayanava Majumdar
Extension Entomologist
bugdoctor@auburn.edu
### PROBABLE INSECT ACTIVITY IN ALABAMA BASED ON DEGREE DAYS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Accumulated degree days in some locations in Alabama*</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belle Mina</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cullman</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birmingham</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay Minette</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headland</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree days (DD) for some critical insect pests</th>
<th>WATCH OUT FOR…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First activity of Colorado Potato Beetle larvae</strong> = 185DD</td>
<td>Flea beetles may be already bad in some parts of AL, especially on late-planted vegetables.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black cutworm egg hatch at 310 DD</td>
<td>Some field scouts have reported increasing caterpillar activity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squash vine borer, egg laying = 900+ DD</td>
<td>Producers in southeast AL are rapidly gaining DD, so watch for some early cutworm and beetle action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European corn borer, first spring moths = 375 DD</td>
<td>Make correct IPM decision by directly scouting crops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn rootworm = 1300 DD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Flea beetles, first activity</strong> = 150+ DD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Imported cabbageworm, first butterflies</strong> at 150 DD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabbage maggots, first generation = 300 DD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cutworms, start scouting after 300 DD for damage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### OTHER ENTOMOLOGY TID-BITS

High sugarcane beetle activity (picture on right) in corn has been observed in many north-central parts of Alabama. For more information on this please read Issue #1 of IPM Communicator for an article by Dr. Kathy Flanders.

For pictorial ID of stink bug species (nymphs and adults), check out the first edition of this newsletter available on the website.

For early season insect pest information in cotton, read Dr. Tim Reed’s article in the earlier edition of this newsletter.

For more information on any of these insect pests and management tactics, please contact Regional Extension Agents or Specialists.

### VOLUNTARY CANCELLATION OF METHYL PARATHION

According to an EPA news release the agency has received request from registrants to voluntarily cancel all product registrations containing the active ingredient methyl parathion—a restricted use organophosphate (IRAC Class 1B) insecticide and acaricide used primarily in cotton, rice, and corn, plus other products. These requests would terminate the last methyl parathion products registered for use in the U.S., effective December 31, 2012. End-use products will not be sold after **August 31, 2013**, and end-use products cannot legally be used after **December 31, 2013**. All end use product labels will be amended to reflect the last legal use date. Methyl parathion was manufactured by Cheminova and United Phosphorus, Inc. Methyl parathion is named in the Washington Toxics Coalition v. EPA Endangered Species Act lawsuit, and the National Marine Fisheries Service is scheduled to issue a Biological Opinion on methyl parathion. Methyl parathion is also included in the group of 58 pesticide active ingredients on the initial list to be screened under the Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program. EPA is inviting comment on the voluntary cancellation requests until May 28, 2010. Registration review docket [EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0332](http://epa.gov/oppfead1/cb/csb_page/updates/2010/methylparathion-vc.html). EPA news release: [http://epa.gov/oppfead1/cb/csb_page/updates/2010/methylparathion-vc.html](http://epa.gov/oppfead1/cb/csb_page/updates/2010/methylparathion-vc.html).

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WHAT PECAN IPM PIPE MEANS FOR YOU

The Beltwide Pecan IPM Pipe Project is a nationwide insect monitoring website. Information about Pecan Nut Casebearer (PNC, picture on right) catches are posted in an interactive map which allows growers to view decision windows for when to spray for PNC. Pecan IPM Pipe can be accessed at http://pecan.ipmpipe.org/.

For all of Alabama, spraying decisions should have been made by this time. If you have sprayed yet, it is probably too late. Moth catches should only be used as a timing decision device and not as a spraying decision device. In a spray decision, the amount of crop load should be considered. Count 50 terminals per tree and find out the ratio of reproductive terminals to vegetative terminals. A ratio of 1:1 is ideal, but below 1:5, the crop load is probably too light to justify the costs of spraying insecticide to manage PNC. Above 2:1, the PNC can act as a beneficial insect to thin the crop and aid in mitigating alternate bearing. Scouting for eggs can be highly difficult and time consuming. If there are moths present, egg laying is taking place and you should consider controls. When spraying for PNC you should try to use an insect growth regulator from class 18 which will not damage the beneficial insects that are preying on aphids.

When applying any spray, make sure your sprayer is calibrated. You should be putting out 100 gallons of water/spray mixture per acre. If you are not putting this volume into the trees, then your spray effectiveness is limited. The best way to increase coverage and effectiveness of your spray is to slow down. It may take you more time to complete your spraying, but you will find that you will have a much better crop and a healthier tree.

D. Alan Burnie
Horticulturist
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TELL EPA ABOUT STORCIDE II (REPEAT ARTICLE)

The EPA is currently reviewing the registration of chlorpyrifos-methyl, one of the active ingredients in Storcide™ II, which is used to protect stored wheat from insect damage. It is currently asking for comments about the use of Storcide II. If you use Storcide II, please contact the EPA by one of the methods listed below, and tell them that Storcide is important to you. If you have clients who use Storcide, please forward this to them so they can comment to the EPA. Deadline for comments is June 1.

Include this reference number in your response: EPA-HQ-OPP-2010-0119

Please send your response to the EPA in one of the following ways:

- Email: To EPA Chemical Review Manager Katie Weyrauch at email weyrauch.katie@epa.gov
- Delivery: OPP Regulatory Public Docket (7502P), Environmental Protection Agency, Rm. S-4400, One Potomac Yard (South Bldg), 2777 S. Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202.

Please let Alan Scarborough from Bayer know about your response: Office: 919-549-2397
allen.scarborough@bayercropscience.com
This is what I am planning to send to the EPA:
"Comment RE: EPA-HQ-OPP-2010-0119
Storing wheat in Alabama is notoriously difficult, because of the intense insect pressure. Warm temperatures in summer favor insect development. Since wheat is stored in June then carried through the summer, it is essential that a grain protectant be applied to the wheat as it is loaded into the bin. There is no single insecticide product that can replace Storcide II. Storcide II is an essential product for producers who store wheat. Aluminum phosphide is not a suitable alternative, given the dangers associated with fumigation and the stringent legal requirements associated with its use. Diatomaceous earth is much more expensive, and has efficacy and clumping issues in the Southeast. Given that there are no single product alternatives available, I encourage you to reregister Storcide II."
For additional guidelines or to consult please contact me as soon as possible by email or phone.

Kathy Flanders
Extension Entomologist
flandkl@auburn.edu
Articles are invited from Specialists and Regional Extension Agents/Educators for this section. Please follow the author guidelines provided on the last page of this newsletter. Thank you.
YOU’VE GOT QUESTIONS, WE’VE GOT ANSWERS!
When you want to know how to get that colorful annual bed installed and growing, to whom do you turn for advice? Are you at a loss for solutions to disease and insect problems? If you’ve got gardening questions, we’ve got answers! Call the Master Gardener Helpline. Trained volunteers are ready, willing, and waiting to help! There are 15 Helpline locations throughout the state of Alabama and calls are answered at least one location year-round. In fact, as you read this, Master Gardeners are manning the phone lines in the Southwest and North Central regions of the state. Give ‘em a call! They’d love to help you with all your gardening needs.

Dial 1-877-252-GROW (4769) and select your location from the short menu to receive the most accurate, local information. Below is a list of the menu options so you will be prepared when you call. If you do not hear your location option in the menu, please select “3” and a Master Gardener will assist you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Included area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>from the Gulf Coast to Grove Hill and Greenville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Central and East</td>
<td>from Anniston to Phenix City; metro Montgomery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>North Central/West</td>
<td>from Clanton to Birmingham; Hamilton &amp; Carrollton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>from Decatur/Huntsville to the Shoals &amp; Russellville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>from Pell City &amp; Gadsden to Cullman and Scottsboro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>West</td>
<td>area of Demopolis, Greensboro, Selma, &amp; Lowndesboro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>area of Andalusia, Dothan, Troy, &amp; Eufaula</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PECAN PHYLLOXERA
Several people have called this spring to complain about galls on pecan stems and leaves. The pecan phylloxera is an insect that causes these galls. The stem phylloxera, *Phylloxera devastatrix*, causes damage to pecan trees by infesting new shoot growth where female flowers are formed and can reduce yield. The leaf phylloxera causes galls on the foliage and is not considered damaging. Homeowners have no effective means of controlling these insects. But the good news is, phylloxera is not detrimental the tree overall (article based on a blog post by Lloyd Chapman, Regional Extension Agent). For more IPM topics, please visit http://www.aces.edu/homegarden/ or call the Master Gardeners Helpline (1-877-252-4769).

Ellen Huckabay
Administrator I, Outreach Programs
knighec@aces.edu

Pecan leaf phylloxera
Image source: L. Tedders, USDA-ARS (on Forestryimages.org)
Articles are invited from Specialists and Regional Extension Agents/Educators for this section. Please follow the author guidelines provided on the last page of this newsletter. Thank you.
PLANT PATHOLOGY RESEARCH ON SHRUB ROSES

As a quick update, readers are invited to refer to an interesting research report called “Disease Resistance of Shrub Roses and Early Leaf Shed seen on some Knock Out Roses” authored by Dr. Austin Hagan and Randy Akridge. Authors reported that, as a result of frequent showers, black spot and Cercospora leaf spot ratings for many rose varieties were higher in 2009 compared with the previous year. Knock Out, Blushing Knock Out, Pink Knock Out, and Double Knock Out roses were free of black spot and Cercospora leaf spot. Moderate black-spot related leaf spotting with some premature defoliation was also seen on Pink Drift, Easy Going, Pretty Lady and Baby Love. Roses that suffered objectionable black spot-induced defoliation were Gourmet Popcorn, Rabble Rouser, Rockin’ Robin, and Johann Strauss. There is also a description of an unknown leaf yellowing and early leaf shed on some Knock Out roses. The full report can be found at http://www.aces.edu/timelyinfo/PlantPathology/2010/April/TI2010.pdf. For questions, contact Dr. Hagan at haganak@auburn.edu.
Articles are invited from Specialists and Regional Extension Agents/Educators for this section. Please follow the author guidelines provided on the last page of this newsletter. Thank you.
NEWS AROUND THE STATE

SEVERE LOSSES IN APPLE CROP (REPEAT NEWS)

Apple growers in North Alabama have suffered a severe setback this year in that they have basically lost the 2010 crop. Apple fruit began falling off the trees last weekend and most varieties do not have any fruit left on the tree. This disaster is region-wide and apple growers from North Alabama to Southwestern Virginia are seeing the same thing. This also includes North Georgia and Western North Carolina.

A possible explanation came today from Dr. Steve McArtney at the Mountain Horticultural Research station in Fletcher, NC. After reviewing climate data for us from March 1 to present, Dr. McArtney says that unusually high night time temperatures on May 2 and May 3 caused an increased respiration rate and all the carbohydrates the trees made during the day were burned up during the night. When carbohydrates are in short supply, the tree tends to use what's left for shoot growth at the expense of fruit growth. The application of chemical thinners which is a normal procedure made this particular fruit drop worse. However, even where thinners were not used, the crop load is extremely light in Alabama. Please feel free to give me a call if you have any questions.

Doug Chapman
Regional Extension Agent
chapmld@auburn.edu

BLACKBERRY SPOTLIGHT AND HIGH TUNNEL FRUIT PRODUCTION WORKSHOP
Event: June 11 at Clanton, AL, 3-6 pm. Chilton Research and Extension Center.
Topics will include blackberry production systems, variety trial updates and insect and disease issues of blackberries. We will also discuss results and answer questions about our blackberry high tunnel production, now in its fourth year. Then spend some time sharing results of our Satsuma high tunnel work and past strawberry high tunnel research. Then see what's going on with our vegetable high tunnel efforts.

For more information: Robert Boozer, 205-646-4123, boozert@auburn.edu.
ABOUT IPM COMMUNICATOR (contd. from page 1)

Archive: All editions of newsletter will be archived on ACES Publication, Alabama IPM Center, and many other public websites. Please contact the article author/s for additional information. The Editorial Board does not assume responsibility for any technical article or information published in this newsletter.

CALL FOR EXTENSION ARTICLES

Sections: IPM Communicator has many sections such as Entomology, IPM in Forestry, IPM for the Home & Garden, IPM in Schools & Urban Areas, Plant Pathology, Weed Control, and News Around the State. All sections may not appear in each edition if there were no submissions that week. Additional sections can be created if requested by author to accommodate IPM-related articles.

Author guidelines:

IPM COMMUNICATOR is emailed weekly every Friday to subscribers. Articles must be received by Wednesday of each week to allow compilation and release. Use the format of published articles in this newsletter to develop your article. Please email finished articles to the Chief Editor in MICROSOFT WORD. Email bugdoctor@auburn.edu. Articles should be written in easily understandable format; short articles will facilitate rapid reading by audience who typically scan publications for information. Long technical articles will not be published in newsletter unless it is a key story. Color pictures can be included in the article if it enhances the readability; authors must provide pictures and send information about the image source. The editor reserves the right to modify articles to fit newsletter format without affecting the technical information. Announcements for upcoming events is also published in the newsletter.

Suggestions for improvement: Editorial board is always open to suggestions. Please email or call 251-331-8416 to provide input to the Editorial board.

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