

Rice Stinkbugs, Plant Bugs In Cotton, Pesticide Resistance Among Hot Topics For 2011

LONOKE, ARK.

Rice stinkbugs, plant bugs in cotton and pyrethroid resistance in insects are among the issues growers and entomologists with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture will be watching in the 2011 growing season.

"We recognize how overuse of pesticides can create resistance and we've been monitoring resistance in the Mid-South over the last several years," said Gus Lorenz, extension entomologist for the U of A Division of Agriculture.

Resistance has been a major issue in weed control, where growers and researchers are struggling to find ways to control pigweed and other weeds that can tolerate glyphosate.

"We're watching the pyrethroid situation for bollworms and bean leaf beetles," he said. "We don't want to lose pyrethroids. They're the most economical pesticide for the pests we have."

"The alternatives will mean increased costs for growers," he said.

In cotton, plant bugs have been an issue.

"We have a limited number of insecticides that can control plant bugs right now," Lorenz said. "We are in desperate need of a new chemistry and new modes of action."

"It's important to realize that the plant bug situation in cotton is not going to be fixed with insecticides," he said.

Other techniques for managing this pest include producing as early a crop as possible and "controlling weeds in and around the fields," Lorenz said. "That's where most of the plant bugs are coming from – weeds in and around the field. If we manage those broad leaf weeds, we can manage the plant bugs and many of our

pests better."

Rice stinkbugs were a problem during the 2010 growing season, with some fields seeing populations 10 times the threshold level to take action.

"About every 10 years it pops up for two to three years where we begin to get very high populations of stink bugs in rice," Lorenz said. "The last one we saw was '99-2000."

"We're probably going to have one more year of rice stink bugs to deal with at these kinds of numbers," he said. "We'll have to scout really closely next season for rice stinkbugs."

One other issue is that there may be a relationship between rice panicle blight – a bacterial disease that become problematic in 2010 and stinkbug populations – a relationship that needs further investigation.

The 2010 growing season "was a banner year for bollworm and we probably had some of the highest levels of bollworm pressures in a long time," he said. "In soybeans it got very costly for producers."

Loopers that normally plague soybeans in cotton growing areas also drifted over to soybeans across the state. Bean leaf beetles also appeared.

"We're seeing pyrethroid resistance in bean leaf beetles, and a lot of applications weren't effective in reducing bean leaf beetle infestations in soybean fields this year," Lorenz said. "The high temperatures we experienced this year made the situation worse."

"We had a lot of application failures due to the high temperatures combined with not enough volume to spray," he said, adding that some fields had to be treated twice. Δ



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