Cotton Insect IPM Tips – July 2001
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Cotton development continues to progress very well driven by above average temperatures. Cotton is blooming in most locations in the SJV. Through June, insect pressure has been fairly light, although square retention has been off. Bob Hutmacher reviews agronomy, irrigation, and pest management issues that emerged during the June Cotton Production Meetings. For a full discussion, go to: http://cottoninfo.ucdavis.edu/ and click on *Crop Update/Recommendations*

Lygus:

During July the lygus threat develops from within the valley. As fields surrounding cotton are prepared for harvest, watch for lygus movement. Stay alert to harvest schedules that might drive lygus into cotton. Lygus management can benefit by leaving uncut strips or scheduling hay cuttings so uncut fields are position near harvested fields. Maintaining alfalfa habitat can be key in managing lygus movement between crops. Pay close attention to crops bordering cotton fields.

Consider insecticide treatments when fruit retention has fallen below expected levels, population densities exceed 7 lygus /50 sweeps and immature bugs are present. Several reduced-risk insecticides are available that suppress lygus populations including Provado® and Stewart®.

Aphids:

Pay special attention to the presence of aphids. Summer aphid populations can develop if broad-spectrum insecticides are required for lygus.

Worms:

Both loopers and beet armyworm could be numerous in July. Excessive defoliation is rarely a problem but damage to flowers and very small bolls can trigger a treatment. Selective, reduced-risk insecticides are available for worm management including Stewart, Confirm®, Success®, and various bt products. For details visit the UC Statewide IPM website at http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/selectnewpest.cotton.html.

Whiteflies:

PCAs and growers in areas with a history of silverleaf whitefly should be alert. Hot temperatures can reduce the number of days required for whitefly development and population turnover.

For clarity of discussion, product names may be used. Such mention does not constitute endorsement by University of California, Cooperative Extension.