EFFICACY OF FOLIAR INSECTICIDES FOR CONTROL OF HELIOTHINES IN CONVENTIONAL COTTON IN ARKANSAS

J.W. Fortner
G.M. Lorenz
N.M. Taillon
C.K. Colwell
W.A. Plummer
B.C. Thrash
University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture,
Lonoke Research and Extension Center
Lonoke, AR

Abstract

The bollworm, *Helicoverpa zea* (Boddie), and tobacco budworm, *Heliothis virescens* (F.), have historically been significant economic pests of cotton across the U.S. Cotton Belt due to the cost of control strategies and associated yield losses. The efficacy of several selected insecticides was evaluated in the 2011 growing season in Jefferson County, Arkansas. Insect damage was determined by sampling 25 terminals, squares, blooms and bolls per plot. Insecticide applications were applied at threshold. At 3 and 6 days after the first application, all treatments provided control when compared to the untreated check (UTC). After the second application, each rating date indicated that all treatments were effective in controlling heliothines. All treatments provided better control than Cobalt Advanced. Harvest totals indicated all treatments produced higher yields than the UTC. New chemistries found in Belt, HGW86 and Prevathon effectively controlled heliothines in two applications as a result of increased residual activity. The residual control of these insecticides may provide producers the opportunity to grow conventional cotton in high pressure situations.