TERMINATION OF INSECTICIDE SPRAYS FOR TARNISHED PLANT BUG

B.C. Thrash A. Catchot **Mississippi State University** Starkville, Mississippi J. Gore **D.** Cook Mississippi State University Stoneville, MS G.M. Lorenz University of Arkansas Lonoke, AR G. Studebaker University of Arkansas Kiser, AR N. Seiter University of Arkansas Monticello, AR D. Kerns LSU AgCenter Winnsboro, LA S. Brown LSU AgCenter Macon Ridge, LA S. Stewart The University of Tennessee Jackson, TN

Abstract

Tarnished plant bugs have the highest control cost of any insect in Mid-South cotton with many fields requiring multiple close interval sprays to obtain adequate control. The tightening budgets of growers has fueled the need to cut all unnecessary expenses. The objective of this study was to determine the point in the growing season when tarnished plant bug applications can be terminated without significant yield losses. Tests were conducted in 8 locations across the Mid-South. Treatments consisted of a second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh week of flowering insecticide termination, as well as an untreated control and a season long control. Prior to first flower tarnished plant bugs were controlled across the entire test area to maintain at least 80% square retention. Analysis of means across all locations indicated that insecticide applications occurring after the 5th week of bloom did not result in yields different than the season long control. Tests will be repeated in 2016 and may result in a variable tarnished plant bug threshold depending on crop growth stage.