

**NORTH CAROLINA PEST NEWS: COTTON
INSECT MANAGEMENT INFORMATION
ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB**

Stephen J. Toth, Jr. and Jack S. Bachele
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, NC

Introduction

North Carolina Pest News, a pest management newsletter published by the Departments of Entomology and Plant Pathology at North Carolina State University, is available on the World Wide Web (WWW). The newsletter, published weekly from April to September, contains timely information on the status of insect and plant disease pests in North Carolina and recommendations for the management of these pests. The Web version on the newsletter allows for links to color images of insect and disease pests as well as related pest management publications which are available on the WWW.

Discussion

Production

The *North Carolina Pest News* is published weekly from April to September. Timely articles on the status and management of insect and disease pests in North Carolina are prepared each week by Extension entomologists and plant pathologists at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, the Vernon James Research and Extension Center in Plymouth (located in eastern North Carolina) and Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center in Fletcher (located in western North Carolina). These articles are submitted via electronic mail to the editors by 12:00 noon each Friday for inclusion in the newsletter.

Throughout the summer, black light and pheromone traps are monitored by cooperators in a number of eastern North Carolina counties for insects, including corn earworm (cotton bollworm) moths, European corn borer moths, fall armyworm moths, tobacco budworm moths, and brown and green stink bugs. The numbers of insects captured in these traps are provided to the editors by the respective county Extension agents. These data are reported weekly in the newsletter.

A text-only electronic version of the *North Carolina Pest News* is posted each Friday afternoon on an electronic news network maintained by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service. Extension specialists and county agents have access to the newsletter by subscribing to a news group (*ncces.pest.news*) on the Extension electronic news network. Personnel of the North Carolina Department of

Agriculture, Extension and research scientists in adjacent states, crop consultants, pesticide dealers, chemical industry representatives, and other interested persons also receive the newsletter each Friday via electronic mail. Printed copies of the newsletter are provided only to the superintendents of the agricultural research stations in the state.

Every Monday from April to September, the text-only electronic version of the *North Carolina Pest News* from the preceding Friday is formatted in hypertext markup language or *HTML* (including hypertext links to images and related publications) for placement on the WWW.

Format

The *North Carolina Pest News* home page is available on the WWW at the following location:

http://ipmwww.ncsu.edu/current_ipm/pest_news.html

The home page lists the weekly issues of the newsletter by volume, number and date, with links to the respective issues. Each issue of the newsletter has a cover page containing links to subject areas, which include field and forage crops, fruit and vegetables, ornamentals and turf, poultry and livestock, residences, structures and communities, and insect trap data. Articles contained in each newsletter are organized by subject area to provide readers with easy access to information of interest. Through the links to subject areas, readers can access articles on the status of pest insects and plant diseases in North Carolina and recommendations for the management of the pests. Individual articles may contain links to color images of insect or disease pests. These links are to color images previously located on the WWW or images prepared from photographic slides provided by Extension entomologists or plant pathologists. Images of insect and/or disease pests help the reader to properly identify the pests referenced in the articles. Articles often contain links to related pest management publications located on the WWW, including Department of Entomology insect notes, Plant Pathology information notes, North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service insect scouting guides, and the *North Carolina Agricultural Chemicals Manual* produced by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University.

Linkages

Issues of the *North Carolina Pest News* on the WWW contain links to: 1) home page of the North Carolina component of the National IPM Network which provides access to wide range of information on integrated pest management and crop production; 2) home pages of the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology Extension at North Carolina State University containing links to departmental publications and descriptions of the Extension and research faculty; 3) North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service's educational resources home page; and 4) North Carolina State University Plant Disease and Insect

Clinic's home page which provides summaries of insect and disease pests submitted to the clinic for identification as well as information on the biology of these pests.

Audience

The primary audience for the *North Carolina Pest News* is the county agents of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service. The information contained in the newsletter is used by county Extension agents to assist their clientele in managing insect and disease pests. The *North*

Carolina Pest News has been available on the WWW since 1995. In August 1996, the Extension centers serving all of the 100 counties in North Carolina had access to the WWW. Availability of the newsletter on the WWW has expanded the traditional audience (*i.e.*, county Extension agents, North Carolina Department of Agriculture personnel, Extension and research scientists, crop consultants, pesticide dealers, chemical industry representatives) to include any person or organization with access to the WWW.