

**BOLL WEEVIL ERADICATION  
PROGRAM UPDATE -  
SOUTHEAST AND MIDSOUTH ZONES**

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**Abstract**

The Boll Weevil Eradication Program in the Southeast (SEBWEP) started in North Carolina in 1978. This program has moved westward since then. The boll weevil is now eradicated from over 3 million acres. This area includes two-thirds of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. Active eradication programs are now in Mississippi and Tennessee. The Mississippi and Tennessee programs cover 600,000 acres.

**Introduction**

The SEBWEP has cost the growers 245 million dollars in the last ten years. This has proven to be a great investment. Cotton yield has increased by 10 - 20 %. In addition to the yield increase, cost of production has decreased and the use pesticides have also decreased.

**Discussion**

**Post Eradication 1998**

North Carolina, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and the Southern half of Alabama are all in post eradication with about 3 million acres. This cotton is monitored with pheromone traps. The traps are distributed at one per ten acres.

The largest problem in the post-eradicated states is the hitchhiking boll weevil. This weevil moves from an infested area back into an area that has since been weevil free. This has been a continuous problem since eradication was achieved. These weevils move in on equipment and also during storms with high winds. The 1998 growing season was a light year for re-infestations. One large re-infestation occurred in North Carolina. Two thousand three hundred and six weevils were caught during the growing season. There were 43 fields (approximately 800 acres) in Edgecombe County treated for re-infestation. The total treatment series covered 12,225 commutative acres. No weevils were caught during the late season. This is a good indication that the numbers for the spring season will be low.

Three counties in Georgia were re-infested in 1998. Lowndes County had one field with 24 boll weevils; Brooks County had three fields with a total of 15 boll weevils; and

Macon County had seven fields with a total of 11 boll weevils. The re-infestation treatment covered 21,501 cumulative acres.

There was 70,124 cumulative acres of cotton treated in Alabama. These west Alabama fields were infested with weevils migrating from Mississippi. Due to the active program in Mississippi, there were less migrating weevils during the latter part of the season. This should not be a problem for Alabama in 1999 since Mississippi has an active eradication program.

**Active Eradication 1998**

Mississippi has approximately 500,000 acres of cotton in the active program. Region 3 and 4 (the hill part of the state) was the first to pass the eradication referendum. Active eradication programs were started in this area in the fall of 1997. The program is on schedule and weevil numbers are down. During the last week of September, an average of one weevil per trap was recorded.

An active eradication program was started in Region two, the South Delta portion of Mississippi, in August of 1998. During the last week of September, there was an average of 61 boll weevil per trap.

While the average weekly number of weevils trapped for areas three and four was one weevils per trap and 61 weevils per trap in area two; the remainder of the state, which is not in the program, averaged 123 weevils per trap for the same week.

In August of 1998, a diapause treatment program was started on 118,000 acres in Southwest Tennessee. Seven counties make up this portion of Tennessee. As a result of this program, weevil numbers were lowered significantly. An average of 43 weevils per trap per week was recorded during the last week of September. Meanwhile, the cotton fields north of Region one averaged 469 weevils per trap during the same time period. The highest numbers recorded in the Tennessee area were in the four most northern counties. An average of 503 weevils per trap was recorded for same time period.

**Future**

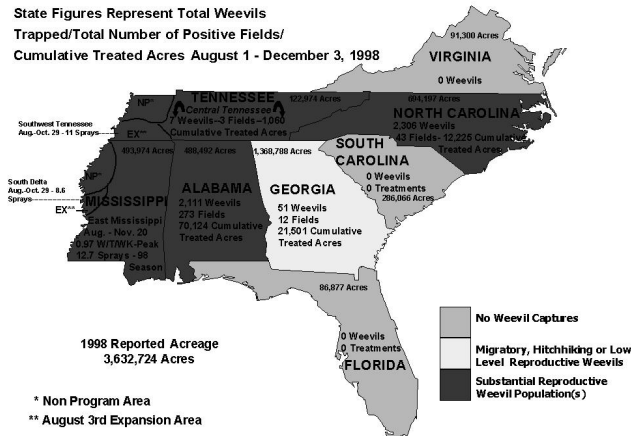
The Southeast Foundation is responsible for all of the cotton east of the Mississippi River. There are two regions in this area that have not passed a referenda. The North Delta is one of these regions. Approximately 500,000 acres of cotton is grown in this area. A referendum is scheduled for January 1999. The growers of Northwest Tennessee will also decide in January if they will participate in the southeastern boll weevil eradication program. Four hundred thousand acres of cotton is grown in this area of Tennessee.

## Summary

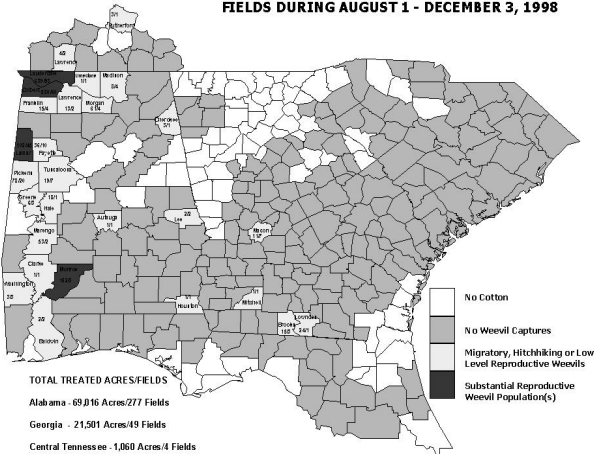
The SEBWEP classifies the region by three categories. Post eradication, active eradication, and those who have not yet passed a referendum. Growers in post and active areas believe that their boll weevil assessments are a good investment, while those who are not part of the program are still indecisive.

### 1998 Southeastern BWEP

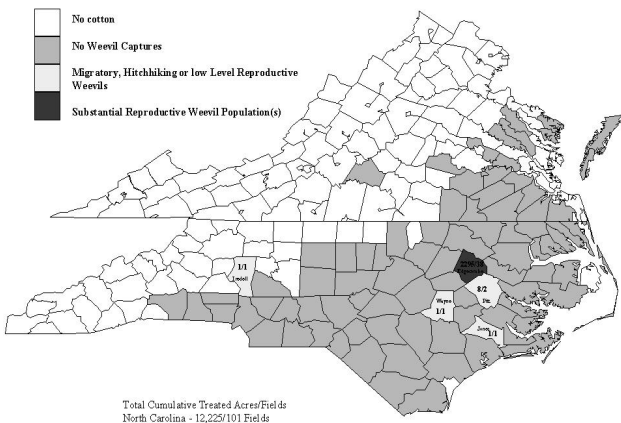
State Figures Represent Total Weevils Trapped/Total Number of Positive Fields/ Cumulative Treated Acres August 1 - December 3, 1998



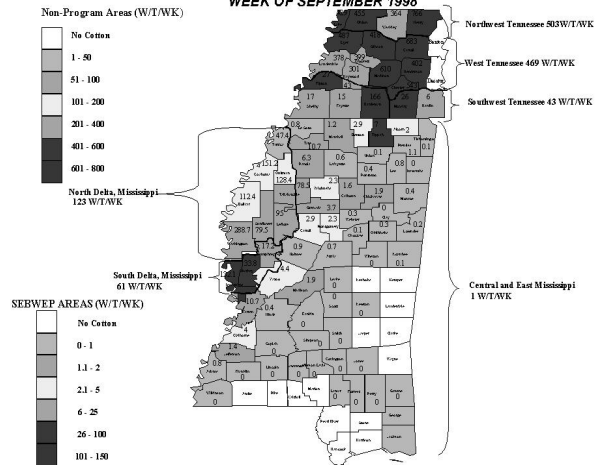
SEBWEP CONTAINMENT AREA TOTAL WEEVIL CAPTURES/TOTAL FIELDS DURING AUGUST 1 - DECEMBER 3, 1998



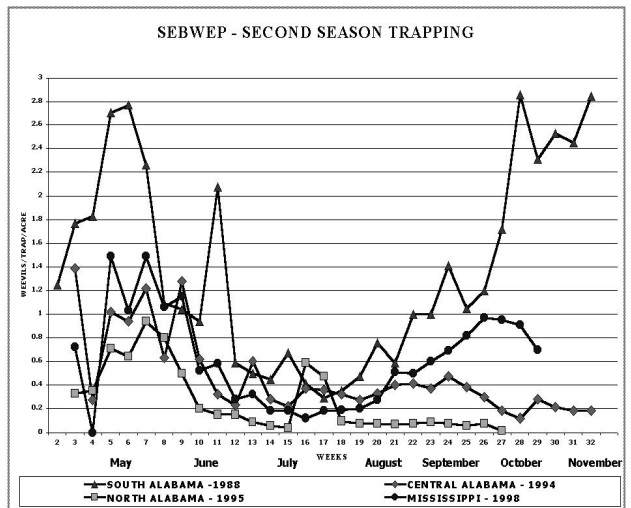
SEBWEP CONTAINMENT AREA TOTAL WEEVIL CAPTURES/TOTAL FIELDS DURING AUGUST 1 - DECEMBER 3, 1998



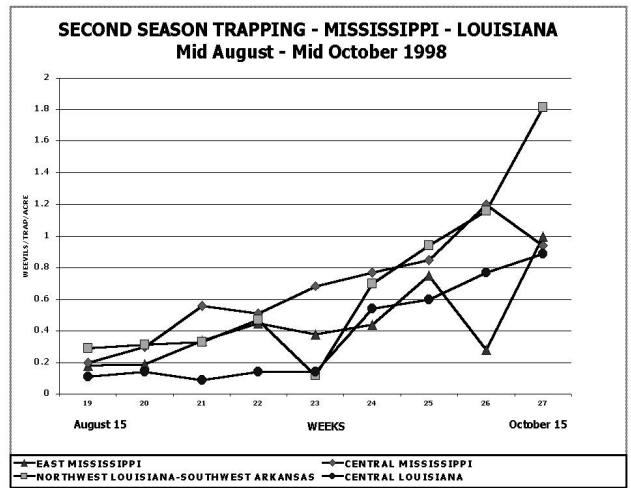
SEBWEP AND NON-PROGRAM AREA TRAPLINE DATA DURING THE LAST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 1998

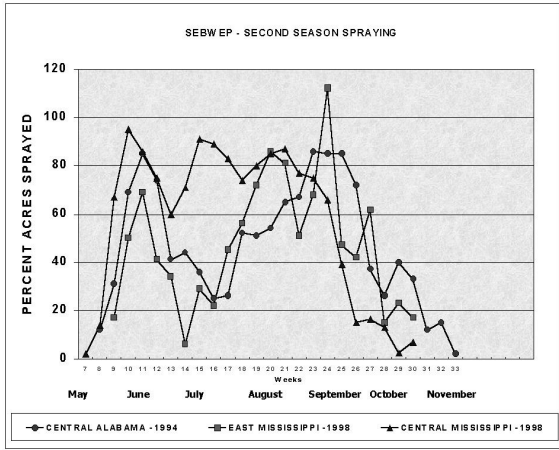


SEBWEP - SECOND SEASON TRAPPING



SECOND SEASON TRAPPING - MISSISSIPPI - LOUISIANA Mid August - Mid October 1998





### COST REPORT for FY 1988 Through FY 1997

