



Pest e-alerts



*Entomology and Plant Pathology, OklahomaStateUniversity
127 Noble Research Center, Stillwater, OK74078
405.744.5527*

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Green Stink Bugs in Cotton

J. Terry Pitts, Area Extension Specialist -IPM/Entomologist

We are seeing a lot of Green stinkbugs in the weeds and margins of cotton this year (Fig 1). In the past they have been hard to find but this year is probably more like the water soaked Southeast U.S. where stinkbugs are a common pest on cotton. The rule of thumb is to treat stinkbugs when 10-50% of the Bolls show internal damage. Their damage appears as a small growth on the inside the boll wall (Fig 2). After feeding occurs the boll will be contaminated and begin to rot from diseases transmitted by the stink bug.



Fig 1. Green stinkbug adult.

Damage Threshold: Recent research from Southeastern states show a “dynamic threshold” provides the best return on control costs. The threshold is dependent on the week of bloom where the first week of bloom allows 50% boll damage down to 10% damage in weeks 3-5 after 1st bloom. The changing threshold is shown in table 1.

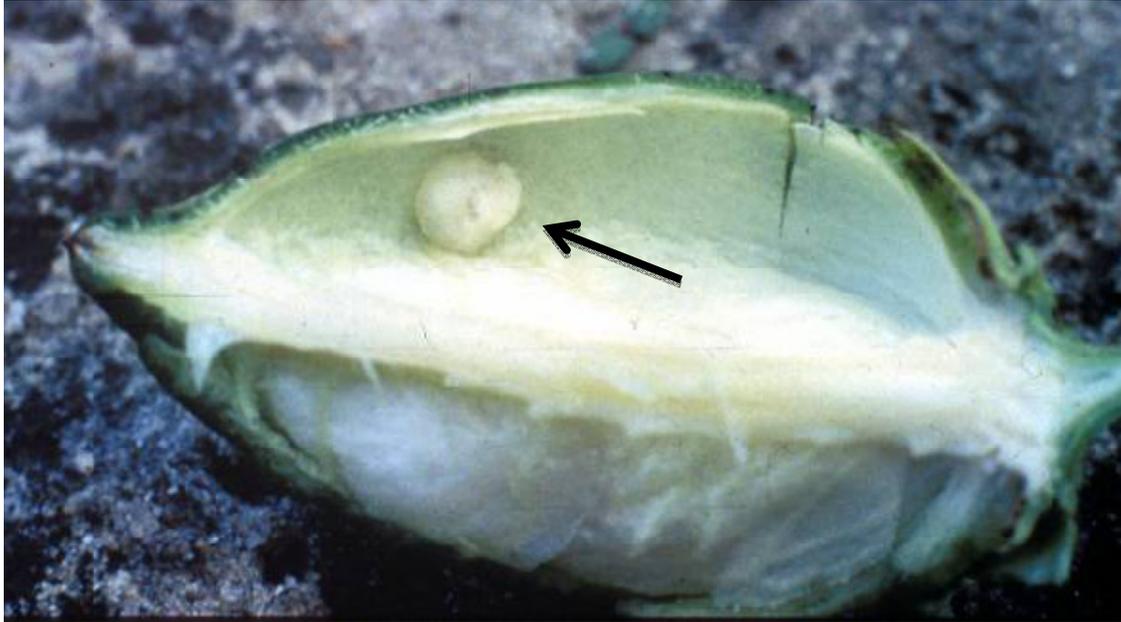


Fig 2.Stinkbug damage to cotton boll wall.

Table 1. Dynamic threshold based on probability of Stinkbug damage by week of bloom.

<u>Week of Bloom</u>	<u>Threshold (Allowable Boll Damage)</u>
1	50%
2	30%
3	10%
4	10%
5	10%
6	30%
7	30%
8	50%

Once the bolls reach the size of a quarter (1¼ inches) it is described as safe from stinkbug damage. The bugs are not capable of penetrating the boll wall with their long slender mouth parts.

Remember that stinkbugs are nocturnal feeders and will tend to be clumped together in cotton. They will often migrate from corn, grain sorghum, or peanuts that are next to the cotton.

Weeds on the edges of fields also can support several stinkbugs so be sure and check those areas when scouting for stinkbugs.

Products that work well for stinkbug control include Bidrin XP, Bidrin + Bifenthrin, Endigo, "Pyrethroids", Leverage, Acephate, Cobalt, Volium Express, and Vydate.

If you have any questions please contact your county Ag Extension Educator.

Grasshopper Control in Late Planted Cotton

J. Terry Pitts, Area Extension Specialist - IPM/Entomologist



The clouds of locusts and extreme loss of vegetation are described in the bible as a common occurrence. When the great plains were being settled large numbers of grasshoppers were common sites in Oklahoma. After all vegetation had been consumed grasshoppers were described as feeding on fence posts although they probably were resting on the shady side of the post during those hot summer days. Today we are seeing large numbers of grasshoppers with some feeding on the young cotton planted after wheat harvest. When looking at the labeled products for use on cotton, Lorsban 4E at 1-2 pints/acre or Malathion 8E at 1 1/4-4 pints per acre are two choices.

If you have pastures close to your cotton it may be helpful to control the grasshoppers migrating from the pasture. Either Sevin or Malathion can be applied in pastures. Sevin has a 14 day grazing restriction and Malathion has a 0 (zero) day restriction.

For suggestions on grasshopper control in other crops consult your county Ag Extension Educator or your local chemical distributor.

Dr. Richard Grantham
Director, Plant Disease and Insect Diagnostic Laboratory

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