Field Crop
Newsletter
April 2009

COTTON PLANTING DATES

Planting date has a significant influence on cotton yields. Results from planting date trials indicate that optimum yields are obtained when cotton is planted before May 5. Yields decline approximately 12 pounds of lint per acre per day after this date. However, when cotton is planted between May 5, and May 20, yield reduction are not as drastic as reductions when planting occurs from mid to late May. Planting cotton after May 20 should be avoided if at all possible.

While planting date is important, soil temperatures are also critical for germination and early growth of cotton seedlings. Temperatures below 50 degrees during germination can result in decreased emergence and slower early season growth.

Cotton planting should begin when the following conditions are met:
1.) After April 15.
2.) The soil has reached 65 degrees by 10 a.m. at a 3-inch depth in a moist seedbed.
3.) Warm, dry weather is predicted for the next 5 to 7 days.

N.C. BOLL WEEVIL FEE

The 2009 NC boll weevil assessment fee will be $1.25 per acre. The fee supports the Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation’s efforts to monitor cotton acreage for any re-introduction of the boll weevil and to respond promptly with eradication treatment if necessary. Contractors will install and monitor traps from late summer until after harvest and frost. Last year more than 11,000 traps were placed maintained on 420,000 acres of cotton in 53 counties.

To allow for trapping and monitoring, cotton growers are required to certify cotton acreage information with the Farm Service Agency office by June 30.
Admire Pro
Due to Southeastern NC’s history of Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus (TSWV), it is recommended to apply a systemic insecticide prior to transplanting. Admire Pro has been our strongest insecticide option used for pest management and to suppress insect vectored diseases including Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus. Admire Pro should be applied at a rate of 0.8 ounces per 1000 plants (Admire 2F at 1.8 oz/1000 plants). It should not be applied more than 7 days prior to transplanting although it is advisable to apply Admire Pro at least 2 days prior to transplanting so the insecticide can be absorbed by the plant before transplant. After application, the plants should be rinsed with clean water until the blue residue is washed off. Failure to wash off the insecticide from the foliage could result in a reduction of pest control.

Actigard
Actigard is labeled for application to flue-cured tobacco for the suppression of TSWV, also. According to the label, Actigard can be applied in the greenhouse or in the field. Though most research in North Carolina has focused on greenhouse application. When plants have been treated with Actigard, in addition to Admire Pro, TSMV suppression has been greater than with plants that were treated with Admire Pro only. However, a high occurrence of stunting and phytotoxicity has been observed when using these two treatments together in the greenhouse.

Actigard should be applied to greenhouse plants at 0.5 ounces per 25,000 to 50,000 plants. For maximum protection, the application should be made 5 to 7 days prior to transplanting. Actigard may be left on the foliage and allowed to dry off, or washed off into the root ball. Plants should be “hardened off” and ready to transplant at the time of application.

SOYBEAN RUST UPDATE
As of March 16, 2009, soybean rust was viable on kudzu in parts of Florida (including one site in the panhandle), two counties in southern Georgia, southern Alabama (Mobile area), several locations in Louisiana, and extreme south Texas. Rust is also active in Mexico.

In 2008, rust was only found in six counties in North Carolina, despite a favorable fall environment. Fungicides were not necessary to control rust and most foliar diseases were minor. In general, North Carolina will likely need a wet spring and a summer with lots of “gray days” to have an epidemic that requires fungicide sprays over large areas of the state. If the need to spray for rust arises, you will receive notification.

TOBACCO TRANSPLANTING
Recent transplanting date trials conducted at NCSU have shown minimal yield differences for tobacco transplanted April 15, and May 15. However, when transplanting occurred after May 20th, yields declined.
approximately 25% when compared to earlier dates. Additionally, a three week delay in transplanting only delayed topping by 9 days.

Transplanting in Onslow County should begin after April 15 when the extended forecast looks favorable. If you can transplant your crop in a timely manner, there is no reason to risk transplanting too early if the weather forecast if not favorable.

**PESTICIDE CONTAINER RECYCLING**

In 2009 a law will require that all pesticide containers be recycled. “Effective October 1, 2009, no person shall knowingly dispose of the following solid wastes in landfills . . . Recyclable rigid plastic containers that are required to be labeled as . . . HDPE and the number 2 (High Density Polyethylene) . . . , that have a neck smaller than the body of the container, and that accept a screw top, snap cap, or other closure . . . “ N.C. General Statue 130A-309 (f) (11). In other words, ALL pesticide containers must be recycled.

Before turning in your pesticide containers, please do the following:

**Empty:** All containers must be completely empty to be recycled.

**Clean:** All containers must be pressure washed/triple-rinsed immediately after being emptied. *Triple-rinse spray nozzles are available at the Onslow County Extension Office.* Unclean containers will not be accepted.

**Discard Cap:** Remove the cap and discard it as normal solid waste.

**Dry:** Allow the containers to dry completely.

**Labels:** Remove all labels from the container.

There are three locations where you can drop off pesticide containers for recycling in Onslow County:

1. **Onslow County Landfill** — 415 Meadow Road
   Jacksonville, NC
   Hours of Operation: Monday thru Saturday, 6:30 am – 5:00 pm.

2. **Onslow County Solid Waste Convenience Center** — Cavenaughtown Road
   Richlands, NC
   Hours of Operation: Wednesday, 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm.

3. **Onslow County Solid Waste Convenience Center** — Silverdale, Belgrade-Swansboro Highway
   Maysville, NC
   Hours of Operation: Saturdays, 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Pesticide Safety “V” class
April 7, 2009
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Jones County Cooperative Extension Service
110 South Market Street
Trenton, NC
NO REGISTRATION NECESSARY
Buy Fresh, Buy Local

When choosing fruits and vegetables always look for produce that is closest to it's most natural form. The less processed the food, the better. This is one of the many reasons I suggest visiting your local farmers market. It's a great place to purchase fresh, healthy food directly from the farmer or grower. Onslow County Farmers Market is opening for the 2009 market season on April 18th, and it's a perfect time for you to come out and enjoy the best that nature and your local farmers have to offer.

The benefits of shopping locally at the farmers market are numerous. First the market is filled with food that's good for you, brightly colored fruits and vegetables that change with the season. Enjoy corn on the cob, tomatoes and berries in the summer, or squash, sweet potatoes and collards in fall.

The majority of the produce in supermarkets was picked almost a week before it hits the shelves and traveled many, many miles before being sold. When you shop at the farmers market you can be assured that the food you purchase is fresh, hasn't traveled long distances and undergone lots of packaging.

When you buy locally at a farmers market, you're doing your part in reducing the energy consumption needed to support large-scale food systems. You're also helping to put money directly into the pockets of local farmers who don't or can't produce supermarket quantities. And you're buying recently harvested produce – cutting down the time between the harvest and consumption means more nutrients are preserved.

Finally, the farmers market offers great opportunities to try something new. Onslow County farmers and growers are there because they have a passion for their product. They're a wealth of information. Don't be afraid to ask questions, as this can be a great chance to get new ideas and tips for food preparation.

Not only will you experience the health benefits of eating locally, but also you'll have some fun and may well learn something new in the process.

The Onslow County Farmers Market (located at 4024 Richlands Hwy, Jacksonville, NC 28540) 2009 Season begins Saturday April 18th. The Market is open Tuesdays and Saturdays from 8:30am until 1:30pm.

Starting mid-May a second location will open for the Farmers Market on Thursday from 2-7 pm. Vendors will be selling at the old Lowe’s location behind Dick’s Sporting Goods on Western Blvd. This is an effort to provide more produce to the public, and increase accessibility and visibility.