

# Forage Conference at GCA Convention

## Bermudagrass Stem Maggot: Control Options

### INSECT MANAGEMENT IN GEORGIA HAYFIELDS



DR. WILL HUDSON  
University of Georgia

### Armyworms



### FALL ARMYWORMS

- ADULTS - MOTH
- EGGS LAID IN MASS
- GENERATION - 28 DAYS
- OVERWINTERS IN FL.
- DRY SUMMERS OFTEN WORSE



### ARMYWORMS

- SYMPTOMS: GRASS BLADES EATEN
- THRESHOLD: VARIES WITH SIZE AND WEATHER
- TREATMENT: CONFIRM, PYRETHROIDS, SEVIN, OR DIMILIN
- PREVATHON IS GOLD STANDARD (\$\$)



### WHITE GRUBS



- ADULTS ARE BEETLES
- ONE GENERATION PER YEAR (MOST)
- MORE SEVERE WHEN USING CHICKEN LITTER
- PREFER NON-ENDOPHYTE FESCUES, ANY WARM-SEASON GRASS

### WHITE GRUB CONTROL

- IDENTIFY SPECIES
- SEVIN OR PYRETHROIDS FOR GREEN JUNE BEETLE
- OTHERS- COMPLETE RENOVATION AND REPLANTING



Dr. Will Hudson,  
Professor and Extension  
Entomologist

# Forage Conference at GCA Convention

## Bermudagrass Stem Maggot: Control Options



### Bermudagrass stem maggot

*Atherigona reversura*

- First found in Georgia in 2010
- Now found throughout range of Bermudagrass
- Maggot chews stem at the first node, killing the last 2 leaves



### ■ Bermudagrass stem maggot



Photo by L. Wiggins



Photo by S. Carlson

### ■ BSM Damage



### ■ Heavy BSM Damage



Photo by S. Carlson

### BSM Management

- Check finer-textured varieties before harvest
- If there is noticeable damage, plan to treat 7-10 days after cutting
- Pyrethroids work, as does spinosad (Tracer, etc.)
- Unirrigated fields may require a second treatment if regrowth is slow



Dr. Will Hudson,  
Professor and Extension  
Entomologist

# Forage Conference at GCA Convention

## Bermudagrass Stem Maggot: Control Options

### BSM Management

For middle GA, the July cutting is usually the first to show damage. Damage may appear in June farther south.

In UGA trials, a single application has been effective for irrigated fields. Without irrigation, slower regrowth may mean a second application 10-14 days after the first.

Once the grass is 6"-8" tall, it may be more practical to cut and protect the regrowth if damage is heavy.

If the field next door is mowed, the flies will move!

### FIRE ANTS



- NUISANCE PEST
- TREATMENTS MAY INCREASE POPULATION
- TOTAL MOUND TIME ABOUT 6 MONTHS

### Fire ant mound



### Fire ants swarming



Dr. Will Hudson,  
Professor and Extension  
Entomologist

# Forage Conference at GCA Convention

## Bermudagrass Stem Maggot: Control Options



### FIRE ANTS CONTROL OPTIONS

- BAITS
  - AMDRO - AT 1.0 TO 1.5 LBS/AC
  - CONSERVE - AT 1.0 TO 1.5 LBS./AC
  - EXTINGUISH AT 1.0 - 1.5 LBS./AC
- MOUND TREATMENTS
  - ORTHENE
  - PYRETHROIDS