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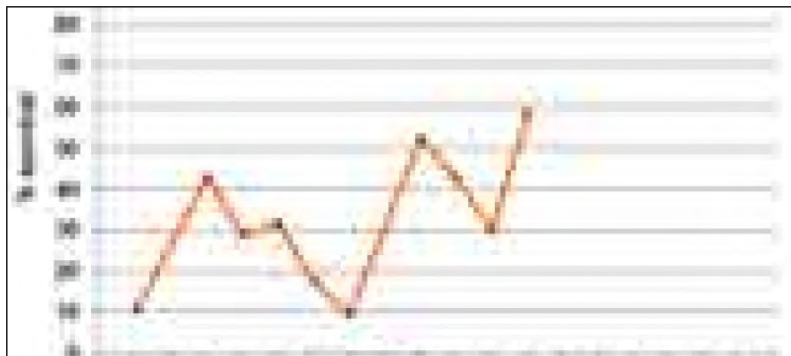


**EPA Seeks Public Comments on Dicamba Registration**

## Virginia Soybeans: Pyrethroid Resistance Hits High Levels, So Understand Treatment Options



By Ames Herbert, Virginia Tech Extension Entomologist  
August 20, 2012



The current season average is 40% survival (a total of 2,041 moths have been tested). As a general rule, anything above 30% means that resistance problems are likely to occur in certain fields.

Scott Reiter brought to my attention a possible pyrethroid failure in a soybean field in Prince George County.

This field had high numbers of large, medium, and small worms (in the range of 5-7 per 15 sweeps). They were still picking up about 5 worms per 15 sweeps two days after a pyrethroid application. We'll want to verify the species to see if tobacco budworms were in the mix.

Budworms are visually similar to corn earworm larvae, but budworms are not effectively managed with pyrethroids. To tell the difference between species, we have to dissect the larva's mouthparts. The farmer applied a 2nd spray containing indoxacarb today.

Back to the topic of interpreting the vial test results: our season average of 40% survival in the vials does NOT mean that 40% of our corn earworm population is resistant to pyrethroids. The vial tests should be considered an "indicator" of possible problems.

The values obtained with a pyrethroid other than cypermethrin (e.g., beta-cyfluthrin, bifenthrin, lambda-cyhalothrin, gamma-cyhalothrin, esfenvalerate) would likely differ. Also, we are testing adults (moths) under laboratory conditions in an enclosed glass vial. Soybean field conditions are entirely different, and it is the larval stage that is targeted by farmers (please don't target the adults with field sprays—they are strong fliers and can easily fly into and out of your field; wait until their eggs hatch and base treatments on threshold numbers of larvae).

If you decide to apply a pyrethroid, you may not have any problems controlling corn earworm larvae, and pyrethroids will also help manage stink bugs. Remember, please do not apply pyrethroids (or any other pesticide) at rates higher than the label permits. It is illegal to do so, and would really only work as a "resistance management" technique if absolutely no survivors remained after the application.

What would likely happen is that the high, off-label rate would kill off the susceptible larvae, leaving some resistant ones to grow up and mate with other resistant individuals, leading to greater resistance problems down the road.

On the other hand, too low of a rate may not kill enough pests, creating the need for additional applications, thereby increasing selection for resistance. For better resistance management, you'll want to use the lowest effective rate, and avoid repeat applications of the same chemical class. You may want to consider:

- Non-pyrethroid chemistries (e.g., indoxacarb, *Bacillus thuringiensis*, flubendiamide, spinosad, carbamate)

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## MARKETS

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April 12 @ 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

[California: Tree Nut Theft Training Seminar, Modesto, April 14](#)



[USDA Perspective Plantings: Corn, Cotton, Rice Up; Soybeans and Wheat Down](#)



[Farming Income Projected 2nd Lowest in 30-Plus Years – Fed Reserve](#)

April 14 @ 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

[Louisiana: Wheat, Oat Field Day, Winnsboro, April 20](#)



[Midwest Soybeans: Does Starter Fertilizer Pay Off? It Depends. – DTN](#)



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April 20 @ 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

[Texas: Small Acreage Farm Equipment Field Day, Cameron, April 30](#)



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April 30 @ 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

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