

DETECTING AND MONITORING BERMUDAGRASS STEM MAGGOT POPULATIONS

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The bermudagrass stem maggot (BSM; *Atherigona reversura* Villeneuve) continues to be a major pest problem throughout the Southeast US. Although strategic pyrethroid insecticide applications are an effective control strategy, much work is needed to fine-tune these recommendations. County Extension Agents and Coordinators from eight counties across South GA participated in an on-farm trial to determine the best method for monitoring BSM activity. This trial tested the use of sweep nets and sticky card traps during different times of the day (8:00 to 11:00 AM, 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, and 2:00 to 5:00 PM). The BSM were most active at the first time point (8:00 to 11:00 AM) and a greater number of flies are caught using the sweep net. More BSM flies were observed on the sticky cards at the 8” height than the 16” or 24”. Although the objective of this project was to determine the best method for monitoring the BSM, we have gained valuable insight in how to optimize the efficiency of insecticide applications. These data show that insecticide applications would be most effective at or before 11:00 AM and should be sprayed deep into the canopy.

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