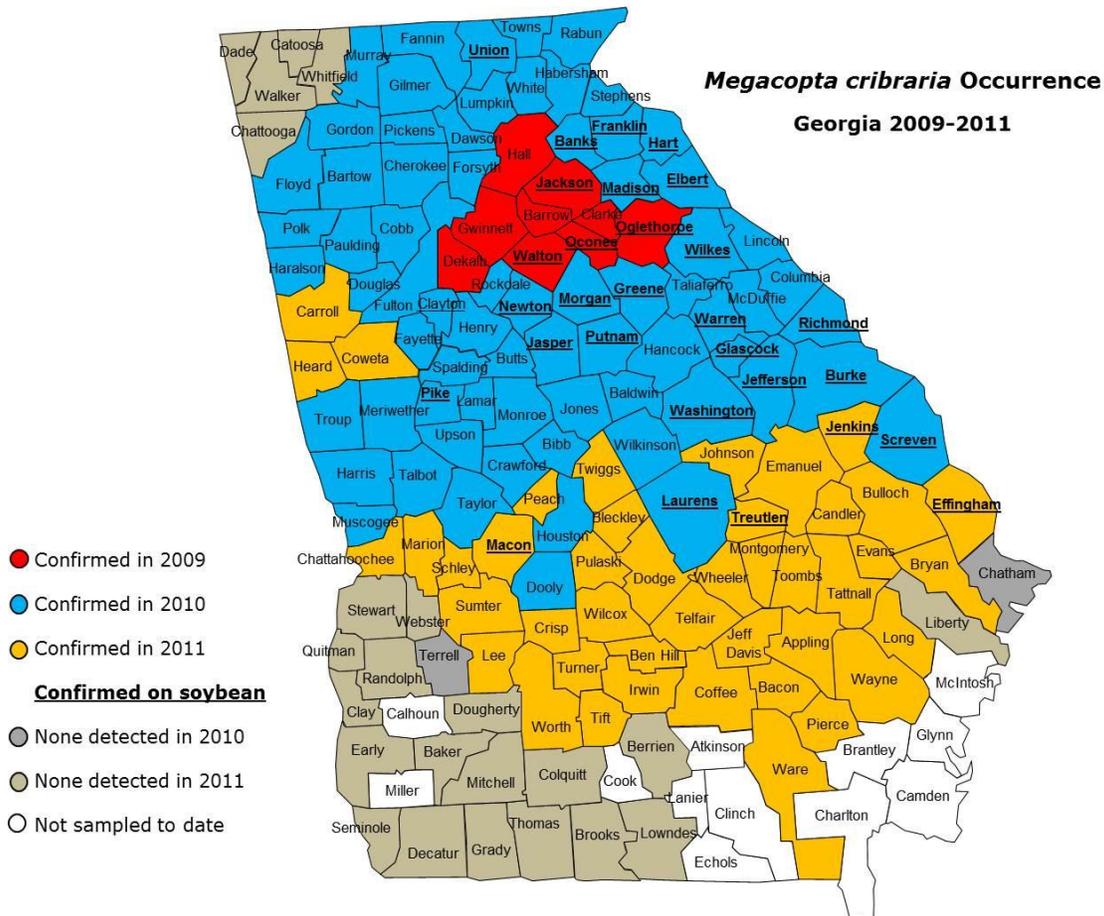


**AGENT UPDATE**  
**Kudzu Bug, *Megacopta cribraria***

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**KUDZU BUG DISTRIBUTION:** Kudzu bugs have been confirmed in 122 counties in Georgia, all 46 counties in South Carolina, 38 counties in North Carolina, and 2 counties in Alabama (see end of document for southeastern distribution map). Kudzu bug populations are dispersing rapidly, especially when considering that kudzu bugs were first confirmed in only nine Georgia counties during the fall of 2009. Based on observations to date, many counties in which the bug was detected during 2010 have relatively high infestations in soybeans now. Thus it is important that we identify infested counties; please let us know if you observe kudzu bugs in your county and it is not confirmed on the map below. **Treatable infestations of kudzu bugs are present in some Georgia soybean fields (read more below).**

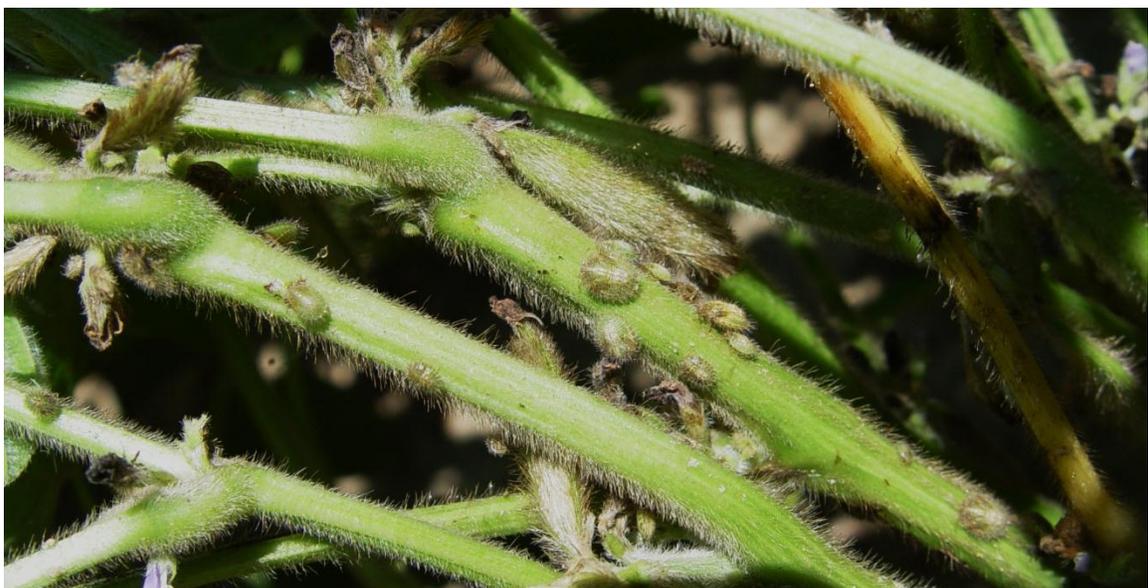


**Map compiled and updated by Dr. Wayne Gardner**

**NYMPHS PRESENT IN MIDVILLE:** The pictures below were taken from field plots on the SE Research and Education Center (SEREC) near Midville. Nymphs have been present in early May planted soybeans for about 2 weeks. Remember that adults initially infest fields which are about 10-12 inches tall so reproduction will likely be delayed in later plantings.



Nymphs are most commonly found on stems and petioles but are sometimes observed on the underside of leaves. Small nymphs are light green in color and almost appear aphid-like (above). Larger nymphs have numerous setae or hair-like structures and are brownish green in color (below). Kudzu bugs have a relatively long life cycle, egg to adult takes about six weeks. Very high numbers of nymphs are present at the SEREC (50-100 per plant!).



**WHEN TO TREAT:** We are suggesting **3-5 kudzu bugs per plant** as an action threshold. Kudzu bug infestations tend to be higher on field margins. When scouting fields be sure to walk the entire field and get an estimate of the overall infestation. When large migrations are occurring, reinfestations of adults may occur 7 to 14 days following treatment. When reproduction is occurring in fields it is likely that the threshold of 3-5 bugs (adults and/or immatures) per plant will be exceeded. Nymphs have a long developmental time (about 6 weeks); if nymphal infestations are not controlled they will be feeding on plants for an extended time.

**INSECTICIDES:** During 2010 we evaluated several classes of insecticides for kudzu bug efficacy. Kudzu bugs are not a difficult insect to kill, however reinfestations of adults can occur fairly soon after application. Insecticides listed in the Pest Management Handbook for control of stink bugs should provide good control of kudzu bugs.



Kudzu bug adults (left), nymph and adult (center) and hatching egg mass (right).

**INFESTED COUNTY MAP (Southeast):**

