

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ONION THRIPS, THRIPS TABACI, IN TATTNALL AND TOOMBS COUNTIES, GEORGIA

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Thrips are the number one insect pest associated with onion production in Georgia. Annual losses due to thrips feeding and the transmission of viruses are often in the millions of dollars. The main species responsible for these damages is the tobacco thrips, *Frankliniella fusca*. However, in the 2006-2007 growing season *Thrips tabaci*, the onion thrips, was found in numbers matching those of *F. fusca*. The most recent data from surveys conducted from 2004-2007 indicate *T. tabaci* is becoming more widespread in Tattnall and Toombs counties. Also, in some locations *T. tabaci* composed over 90% of all thrips collected in 2007.

This project is on-going and should provide relevant information to extension personnel and growers concerning the movement of *Thrips tabaci* and its relevance as a feeding pest and as vector in onion production fields.

