



## *Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter*

Volume 12, Issue #15    Edisto Research and Education Center in Blackville, SC    17 August 2017

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### *Pest Patrol Alerts*

The information contained herein each week is available via text alerts that direct users to online recordings. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. After a new message is posted, a text message is sent to alert users that I have recorded a new update. Users can subscribe for text message alerts for my updates in two easy steps. Step one: register by texting **pestpat7** to 97063. Step two: reply to the confirmation text you receive by texting the letter “y” to complete your registration. Pest Patrol Alerts are sponsored by Syngenta.

### *Updates on Twitter*

When noteworthy events happen in the field, I will be sending them out quickly via Twitter. If you want to follow those quick updates, follow me at @bugdocisin on Twitter.



### *News from Around the State*

**Justin Ballew**, county agent covering Dillon and Marion Counties, reported that he is “seeing loopers build in places. Not many fields at threshold levels, but some folks are making some sprays. Pretty quiet other than that.” **Jonathan Croft**, county agent in Orangeburg County, reported that “worm numbers are picking up in beans and growers are starting to make applications. From what I have been told, it is a mixed bag of soybean looper, velvetbean caterpillar, podworm, and green cloverworm out there. **Charles Davis**, county agent covering Calhoun and Richland Counties, reported that “cotton is getting old and some is cutting out, so hopefully we are on the downside of this crop. Still some cotton in the top to protect and some spraying is being done along with a final growth regulator. Seeing a lot of small worms in soybeans. Plenty of kudzu bugs to be had for the taking.” **Chris Talley**, county agent in Anderson, reported “some spider mite damage on a few acres of cotton also some aphids present on some. Green cloverworms on some soybeans as well as a few loopers, mature and immature kudzu bugs. None of soybean insects are at treatment threshold.” **Jay Crouch**, county agent in Newberry, reported that “kudzu bug immature populations are reaching treatable levels. Fungus is evident in some fields.”

### *Cotton Situation*

As of 13 August 2017, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 96% of the crop is squaring, compared with 92% the previous week, 98% at this time last year, and 98% for the 5-year average. About 76% of the crop is setting bolls, compared with 67% the previous week, 86% at this time last year, and 83% for the 5-year average. About 2% of bolls are opening, compared with 0% the previous week, 1% at this time last year, and 0% for the 5-year average. The condition of the crop was

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described as 42% excellent, 49% good, 8% fair, 1% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

## Cotton Insects

Stink bugs and bollworm continue to be the main insects causing problems now in cotton. For stink bugs, continue to sample bolls for feeding injury, and treat based on thresholds as they match up with week of bloom.

**Decision aid for stink bug thresholds in Southeast cotton**

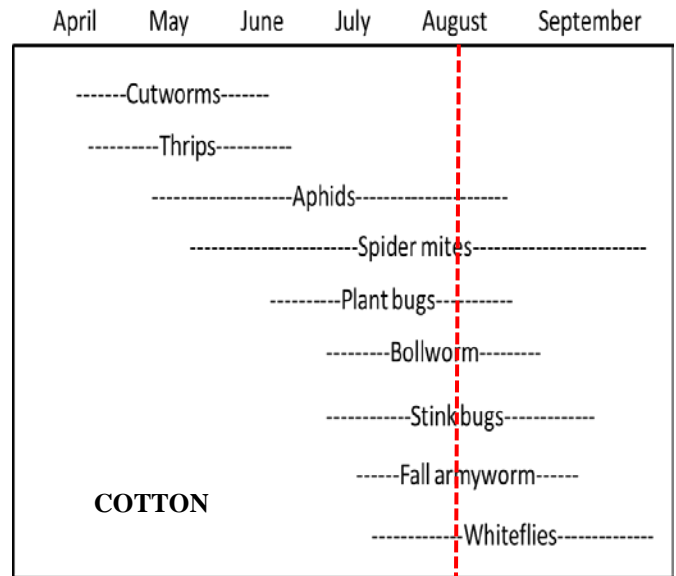
Week of bloom	Threshold (% internal boll damage)
1	50%
2	30%
3	10%
4	10%*
5	10%*
6	20%
7	30%
8	50%

\*Consult state guidelines for scouting intervals.

Bolls should fit through the large hole but not the small one.

0.9" 1.1"

- 1 Pull random sample of quarter size diameter bolls, avoid field edges. (boll sizes between 0.9" and 1.1")
- 2 1 boll / acre, no less than 25 / field.
- 3 Sort bolls into two piles: those with and those without, obvious external lesions.
- 4 Crack and inspect bolls with external lesions for internal damage (boll wall warts, stained seed or lint).
- 5 If threshold is not met for that week, (see chart) check the remaining bolls for internal damage.
- 6 Treat field only if the threshold is met for that week.



of bloom. Some of our early planted cotton is done, but much of our crop planted later is still susceptible.

Here is that

graphic again...in what week of bloom are each of your fields? Also, captures of bollworm moths in our pheromone traps here continue to increase, so be on the lookout for damage to squares, blooms, and bolls. Much of the feeding starts in the blooms and results in feeding injury to the boll tips, as pictured here. This is typical, as you know. Spider mites are pretty much everywhere, so you have to assess their numbers in each field. I have not seen or heard of any problems with FAW or issues with whiteflies yet. We are getting near the end!



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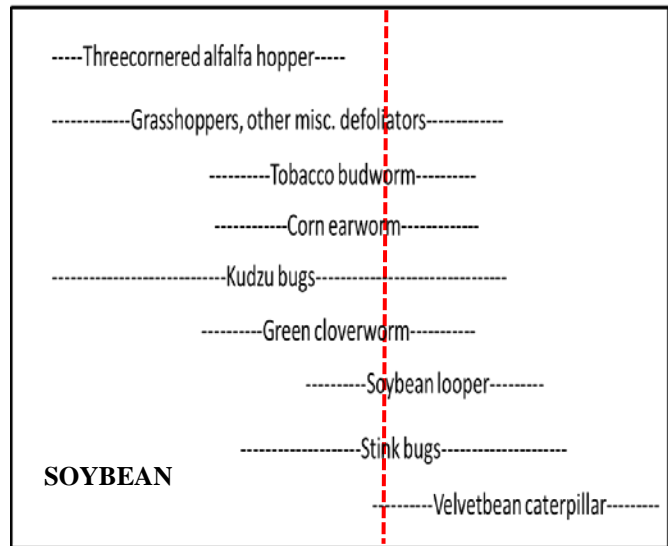
## Soybean Situation

As of 13 August 2017, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 82% of the crop is blooming, compared with 69% the previous week, 65% at this time last year, and 68% for the 5-year average. About 38% of the crop is setting pods, compared with 35% the previous week, 25% at this time last year, and 24% for the 5-year average. The condition of the crop was described as 33% excellent, 51% good, 16% fair, 0% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

## Soybean Insects

Just as it was last week, there are many different species of pests present in soybeans now. Soybean looper is becoming more numerous, as is podworm, particularly in blooming soybeans on wide rows.


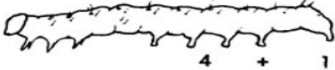


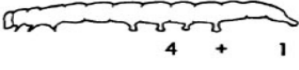








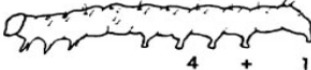
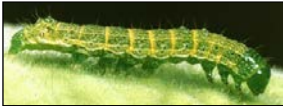
April    May    June    July    August    September    October



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(2017) Prepared by Jeremy Greene, Professor of Entomology

### FIELD KEY TO COMMON SOYBEAN CATERpillARS

		<b>CORN EARWORM</b> 4 + 1 pair prolegs Curls up in hand Black "warts" on body	
		<b>VELVETBEAN CATERPILLAR</b> 4 + 1 pair prolegs Very active when handled	
		<b>SOYBEAN LOOPER</b> 2 + 1 pair prolegs Fatter at tail end Looping movement	
		<b>GREEN CLOVERWORM</b> 3 + 1 pair prolegs Not fatter at tail end Looping movement	
		<b>TOBACCO BUDWORM</b> 4 + 1 pair prolegs Curls up in hand Black "warts" on body	

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## Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm

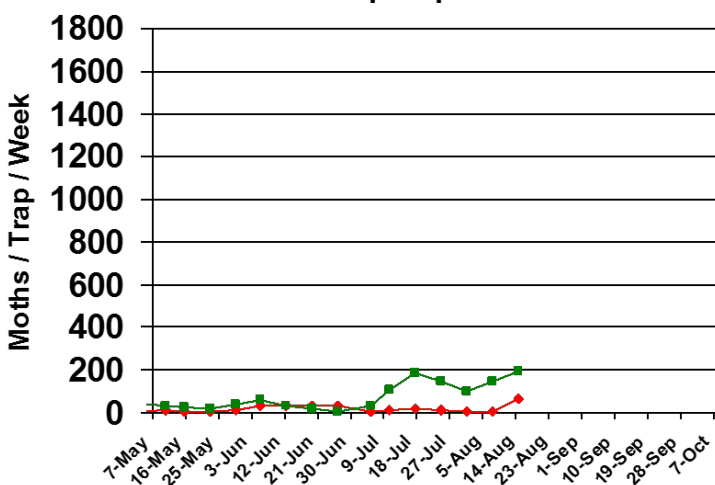


Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are captures from 2007 to 2016 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I provide these

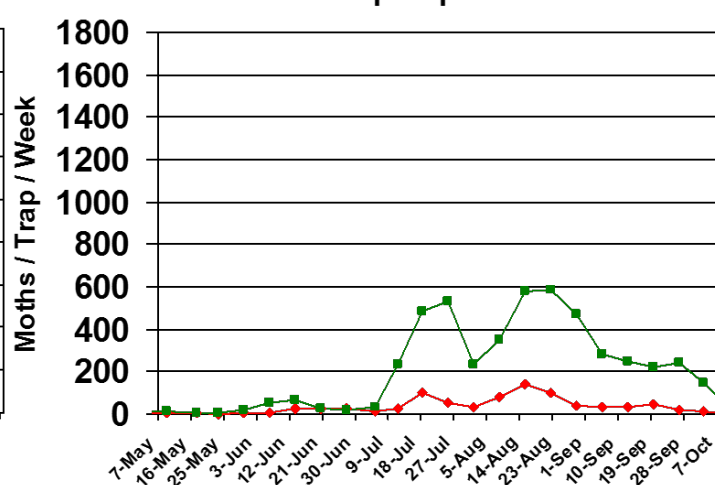
data as a measure of moth presence and activity in our local area near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



### Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2017

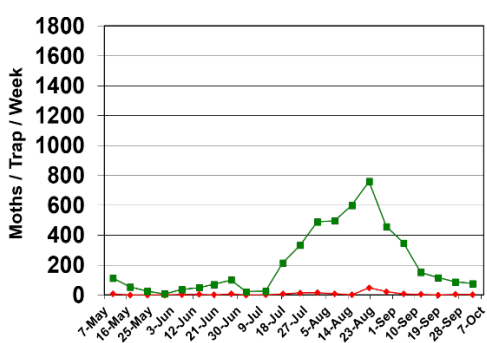


### Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2016

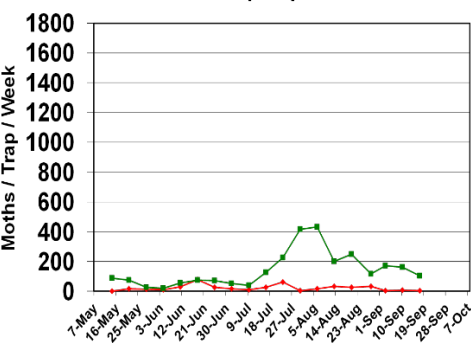


Trap data from 2007-2015 are shown below for reference to other years of trapping data from EREC:

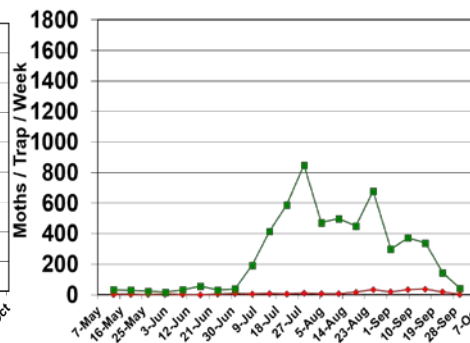
### Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2007



### Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2008



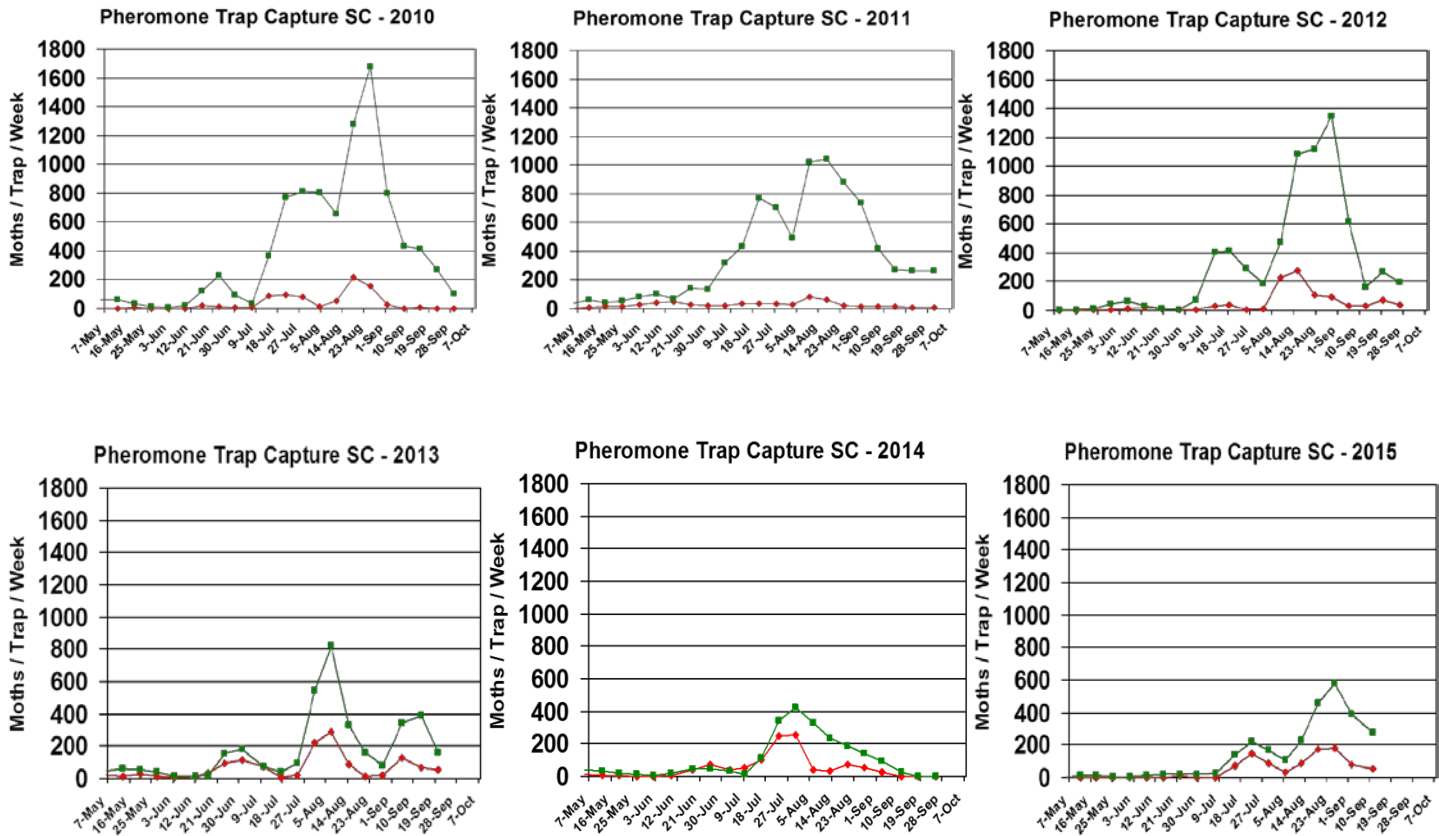
### Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2009



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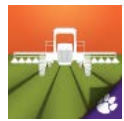
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## **Pest Management Handbook – 2017**

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2017 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/pest%20management%20handbook.html>

## **Free Mobile Apps: “Calibrate My Sprayer” and “Mix My Sprayer”**



Download our free mobile apps called “Calibrate My Sprayer” and “Mix My Sprayer” that help check for proper calibration of spraying equipment and help you with mixing user-defined pesticides, respectively, in custom units (available in both iOS and Android formats):

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/mobile-apps/>

## **Need More Information?**

For more Clemson University Extension information: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/>

For historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/cotton1/newsletters.html>

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeremy K. Greene".

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.  
Professor of Entomology



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