



## *Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter*

Volume 6, Issue #13

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

28 July 2011

### *Pest Patrol Hotline*

If you do not have access to this newsletter but want the information contained herein each week, there is a toll-free hotline for insect problems updated here. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. Call the free number (877) 285-8525 and select the messages you would like to hear. Select #3 for the Southeast, and select #1 to hear my message. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

### *News from Above the Lakes*

Randy Cabbage, county agent covering Lee, Kershaw, and Sumter Counties, reported that he found bean plataspid/kudzu bugs in soybeans in Sumter County. He also reported that a producer in Kershaw County sprayed a 10 acre soybean field with 16 oz of cyfluthrin (that's 1.6 oz/acre, if my math is correct) for kudzu bugs late last week (Thursday) and that he could not find any bugs on Tuesday. I am not recommending that we use cut rates, but it is good to hear that the lowest recommended rate for stink bugs with this pyrethroid worked on the plataspid.

Jacob Stokes, county agent covering Clarendon, Florence, and Williamsburg Counties, reported that he is seeing "some corn earworms, kudzu bugs, and soybean loopers in some old beans this week in Florence County."

### *News from Below the Lakes*

Drake Perrow, a consultant and producer, reported that it "really has been a strange year with stink bugs. Not finding many bugs but seeing some damage. Starting to find some premature boll opening. Not good."

### *News from the Piedmont/Upstate*

Raymond Sligh, retired county agent, reported that he found kudzu bugs/bean plataspid in soybeans in York County – not many, but enough to notice along the edge of fields.

Chris Talley, county agent in Anderson County, reported that he is "still seeing a lot of [kudzu] bugs up here as well...numbers seemed to be down last week...could be hot and dry weather. Also found some threecornered alfalfa hoppers in areas where I'm seeing beans break off at just above ground level, with no other signs of problems on them. No holes or bore up the stalk as with lesser corn stalk borer, so I'm suspecting damage from threecornered alfalfa hoppers. We did find a few lesser corn stalk borers, but they aren't the problem."

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## Cotton Situation

As of 25 July 2011, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 82% of the crop as squaring, compared with 92% last year at this time and 88% for the 5-yr average. About 43% of the crop has set bolls, compared with 35% last year at this time and 31% for the 5-yr average. Temperatures have remained high, and widespread showers have brought relief to some areas, but we need more. The overall soil moisture levels in the state were described as 39% very short, 50% short, and 11% adequate, with no surplus. Conditions for cotton were reported as 7% very poor, 17% poor, 45% fair, 30% good and 1% excellent. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

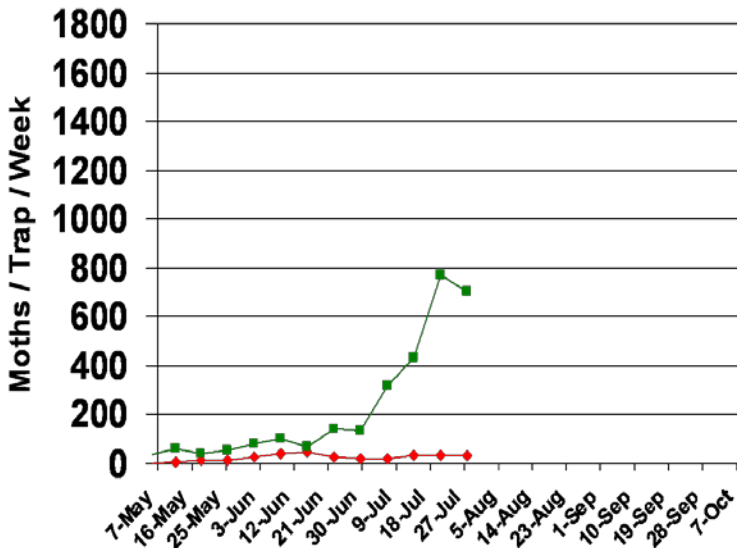
## Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



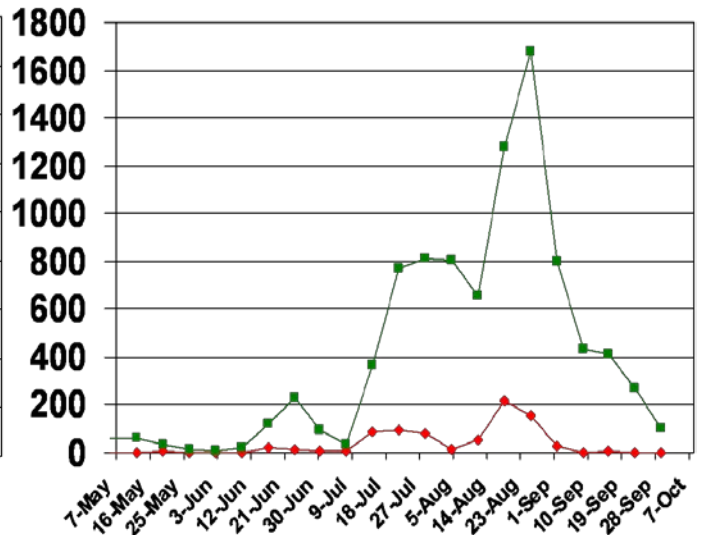
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC last season and this season are shown below. Numbers are similar so far – how high with they go this year? We caught over 7,000 BW moths in 10 traps last week. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for a limited number of non-Bt-cotton acres. I provide these data as a measure of moth activity in our local area where I use these data as an indication of moth presence and activity near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



**Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2011**



**Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2010**



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### Cotton Insect Control Guide

Clemson University Publication IC97 (Cotton Insect Management) has been revised for 2011 and is available free from your local county office. It is also available online at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/ENTOM/IC97.PDF>

### Soybean Situation

As of 25 July 2011, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 100% of soybeans as emerged, equal to where we were last year and the 5-yr average. About 3% of pods have been set, compared with 16% last year and 10% for the 5-yr average. Conditions for soybeans were reported as 13% very poor, 30% poor, 38% fair, 18% good and 1% excellent. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

### Kudzu Bug/Bean Plataspid

The kudzu bug (a.k.a. bean plataspid), *Megacopta cribraria*, is NOW IN EVERY COUNTY IN SC. It continues to spread in the Southeast. **It has been found on kudzu, wisteria, lima beans, soybeans and other leguminous hosts.** Please continue to inform me if they are observed in any crops, particularly soybeans. **Please email me with reports in all counties not reporting them in soybeans previously – see map below.**



Kudzu bugs/bean plataspids continue to move into soybeans. Be on the lookout for adults, eggs, and hatching immatures. As I mentioned last week, my graduate student and I have many on-going trials that will hopefully help answer the many questions we are getting about this species. We have insecticide efficacy trials, residual insecticide trials, treatment threshold tests in early- and late-maturing varieties, a protected by crop phenology test, cage trials with varying density levels of bugs, etc. These projects and the work going on in Georgia should provide much information for use in managing this species. At this point, we are still learning about this insect. It takes years to develop tools such as treatment thresholds for insect pests.

I took the photos on the following page yesterday of nymphs in a patch of MGIV beans that have remained untreated. It was not covered with them, and my phone camera is not the best camera, but, if left unchecked, these bugs can reproduce on a large scale. I have tried to circle many of the nymphs. Notice how hairy they are. One circle shows an egg mass and nymphs just emerged.



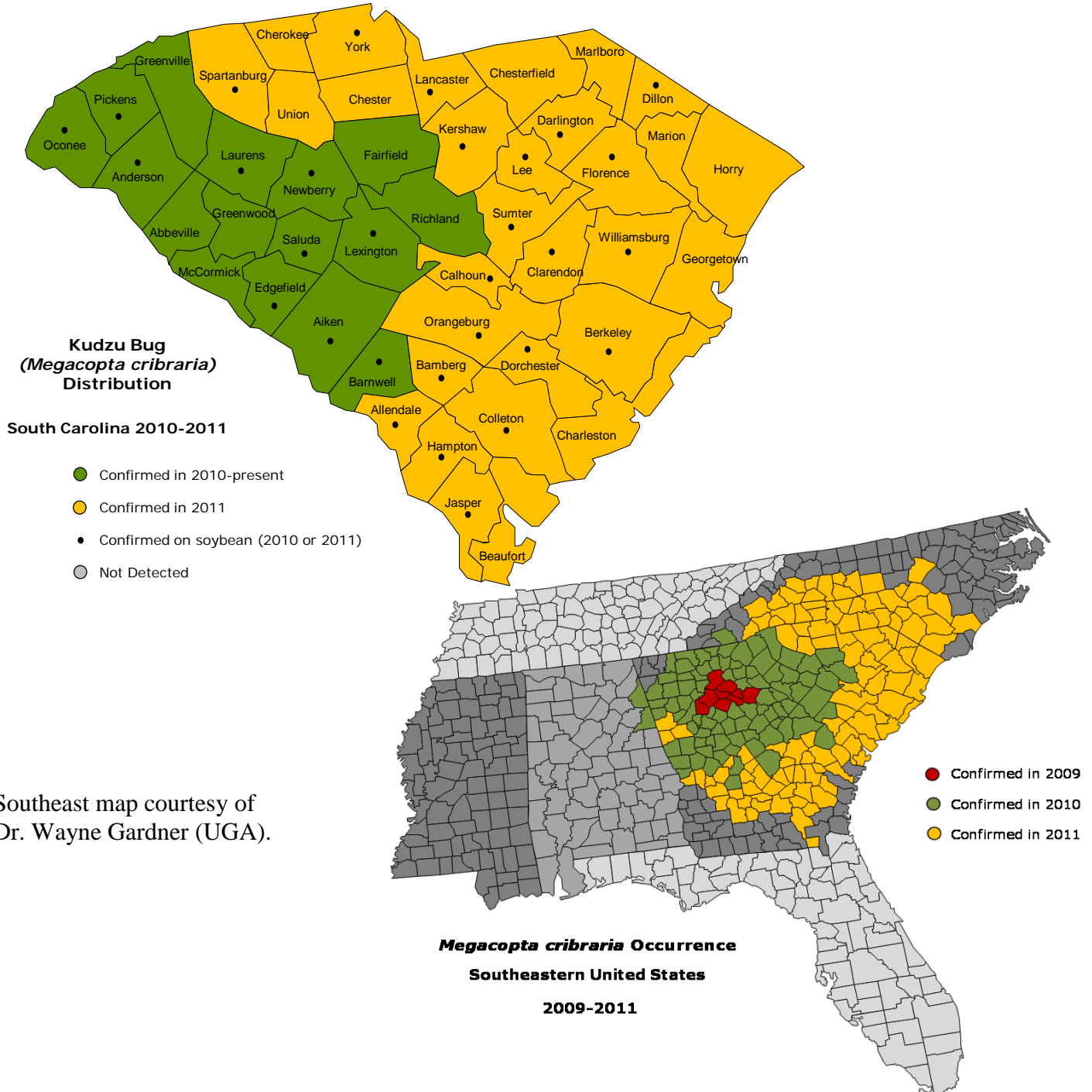
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The latest known distribution of the kudzu bug in SC is represented below. **We have it confirmed in every county in SC.** We are now documenting the presence of the species on soybeans (counties with dots below). Some were observed in soybeans last year, and many more have been observed in the crop this season. A map of the infested portions of the southeastern USA is also shown.



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### **Soybean Insect Control Guide**

Clemson University Publication SL1 (Soybean Insect Management) has been revised for 2011 and is available free from your local county office. It is also available online at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/AGRO/SL1.PDF>

### **Pest Management Handbook - 2011**

Insect control recommendations are also available online in the 2011 Pest Management Handbook at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/index.html>

### **Need More Information?**

Log on to the following web pages to view important cotton management recommendations, data, and historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

For more cotton and soybean information:

<http://www.clemson.edu/public/rec/edisto/research/index.html>

For past newsletters:

[http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest\\_management/newsletters/index.html](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest_management/newsletters/index.html)

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.

Associate Professor – Entomologist



Visit our website at:

<http://www.clemson.edu>

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