



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 16, Issue #12 Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

16 July 2021

Pest Patrol Alerts

The information contained herein each issue is available via text alerts that direct users to online recordings. I will update the short message often 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.

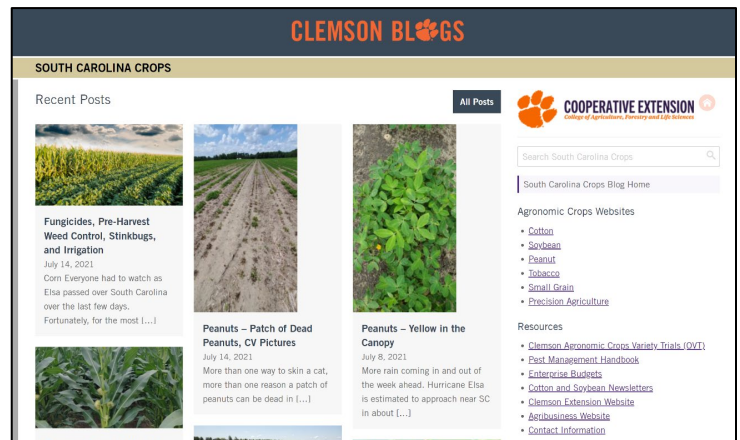
Updates on Twitter

When noteworthy events happen the in the field, I will be sending them out quickly via Twitter. If you want to follow those quick updates, follow me at [@bugdocisin](https://twitter.com/bugdocisin) on Twitter.



South Carolina Crops Blog

We have started the SC Crops Blog back up, and content about production of major row crops is included at the following link, if you want more information: <https://blogs.clemson.edu/sccrops/> We are still working on the formatting and design, but look for additional information at the above link. Also, archived issues of the Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter can be viewed at a convenient link on the sccrops page. **Dr. Michael Plumblee** is to be thanked for getting this valuable platform going again. Contact him with any questions or to get content posted.



News from Around the State

Charles Davis, county agent in Calhoun County, reported normal conditions, except for “plenty of aphids, a few [bollworm] eggs, and kicking up some [bollworm] moths” in cotton. **Jonathan Croft**, county agent in Orangeburg County, reported that the “cotton I have looked at this week had varying levels of aphids, but no fields were bad enough to treat. Many beneficial insects in these fields. I was in some R1 soybeans yesterday, and all was quiet in those.” **Jay Crouch**, county agent in Newberry, reported that “things are relatively quiet here so far. Had a call yesterday about kudzu bugs in Lexington County – adults present in marginal numbers.”

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Scouting Workshops and Field Days

Plans are set for our 2021 in-field, in-person workshops devoted to scouting for insect issues in cotton and soybeans. Dates and locations for these scouting workshops are below. You must preregister to attend. Links for preregistration are below and on the attached announcements. Attendance will be limited to the first 50 participants that preregister for each session/workshop. For more details, see attached announcements.



- 28 July in Manning, SC, at the county office (21 West Rigby Street, Manning, SC 29102).
Morning Session – Cotton/Soybean Scouting Workshop
[HTTP://www.eventbrite.com/e/soybeancotton-crop-scouting-workshop-tickets-163574857803](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/soybeancotton-crop-scouting-workshop-tickets-163574857803)
- 29 July in Cameron, SC, at the Cameron Community Club (5376 Cameron Road, Cameron, SC 29030).
Morning Session – Cotton/Soybean Scouting Workshop
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/crop-scouting-workshop-tickets-162591913791>
Afternoon Session – Peanut
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/crop-scouting-workshop-afternoon-session-peanut-tickets-162670544979>
- 30 July in Blackville, SC, at the Edisto REC (64 Research Road, Blackville, SC 29817).
Announcement sent out soon for preregistration.
Morning Session – Cotton/Soybean Scouting Workshop
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/crop-scouting-workshop-cotton-soybean-tickets-163050956801>

We will also have an in-person field day here at the Edisto REC on 2 September 2021, with at least row crops (cotton, soybeans, peanuts, corn, grain sorghum, etc.) covered. Stay tuned for details.

Cotton Situation

As of 11 July 2021, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 63% of the crop is squaring, compared with 47% last week, 55% at this time last year, and 60% for the 5-year average. About 20% of the crop is setting bolls, compared with 7% last week, 7% at this time last year, and 17% for the 5-year average. The conditions of the crop were 6% excellent, 69% good, 24% fair, 1% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

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Cotton Insects

My crew and I scouted some non-Bt cotton yesterday at the Edisto REC, and it was mostly clean, except for aphids. We observed no signs of bollworm feeding on terminals, squares, blooms, or medium-sized bolls yet, but pheromone traps have started going up this week, and I did flush a few moths and see a couple of eggs. Most of our crop will be blooming when a big flight of bollworm moths comes out of the soil under corn fields soon. Again this week, on the timeline chart, we face multiple groups of arthropod pests, including aphids, spider mites, plant bugs, bollworm, and stink bugs.

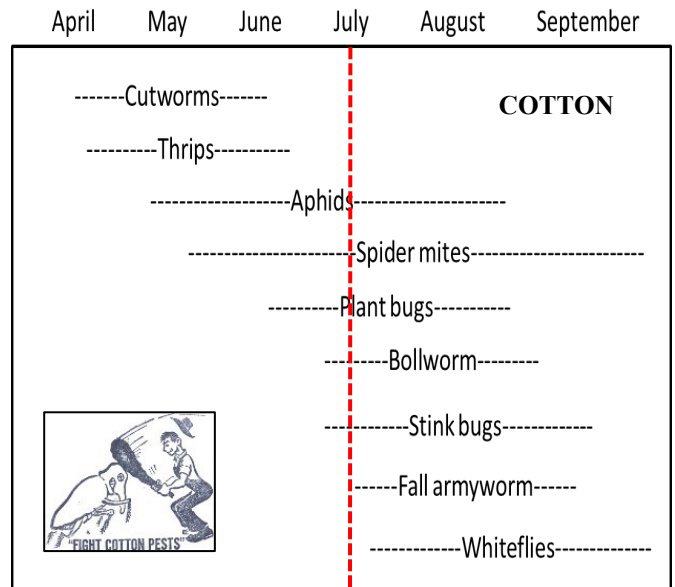
Aphids – Aphids continue to be a sticky mess in cotton, but there are reports of the fungus in Georgia, so we should see some relief soon from that natural biological control organism. Parasitism of and predation on aphids is incredible in the field right now. Remember, populations of aphids are a great food source for natural enemies that build up and help us later.

Spider mites – As long as it continues to rain every week, that should keep populations of spider mites in check. As you know, they can get out of control when the weather is hot and dry for a stretch.

Plant bugs – We are still in the important window (a couple of weeks before and after first bloom) to monitor for plant bugs AND square retention. Cotton fields near grain crops (corn, etc.) are likely more at risk for issues with tarnished plant bug, so scout areas near (within 100 meters or so) those crop interfaces initially. Keep plant bugs below 8 per 100 sweeps (or roughly 1 per 10 sweeps to keep the math simple) for pre-bloom sampling or 3 per 5-6 rowft using a black drop cloth post-bloom. If numbers exceed either of these thresholds AND square retention drops below 75%, you probably need to treat for plant bugs.

Bollworm – I saw a few more bollworm moths flying around in cotton this week. Pay attention as you walk through and “flush” moths. Note what species. Tobacco budworm (TBW) is more numerous now in my pheromone traps, but you don’t need to worry about TBW in cotton.

Stink bugs – Brown and southern green stink bugs have been numerous in corn this season, but they are becoming more difficult to find and collect lately for a caging experiment on cotton. Does this mean they are leaving corn for cotton, soybeans, etc? Yes, it does. I caught this guy (southern green stink bug nymph) feeding on a small boll yesterday.



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Soybean Situation

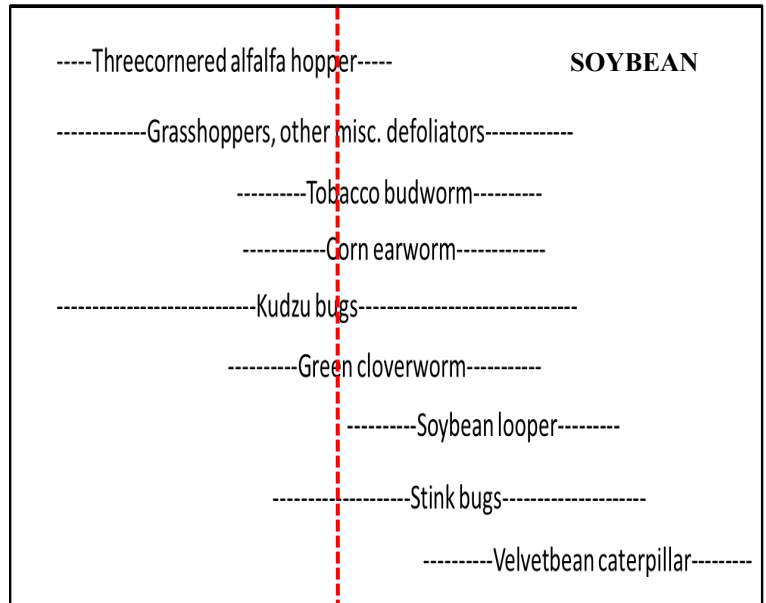
As of 11 July 2021, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 96% of the crop has emerged, compared with 92% the previous week, 89% at this time last year, and 92% for the 5-year average. About 18% of the crop is blooming, compared with 12% the previous week, 13% at this time last year, and 13% for the 5-year average. The conditions of the crop were 10% excellent, 71% good, 19% fair, 0% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Soybean Insects

We remain mostly quiet in soybeans regarding insects. This is good news again this week, but we know this will change in the next few weeks.

Migrating populations of soybean looper and velvetbean caterpillar will be here soon. These species and others that are migratory do not successfully overwinter here in SC. It gets too cold here, so they successfully survive winters in more southern latitudes and migrate to our state each year. The important species that successfully overwinter in SC include podworm, several species of stink bugs, and many others. We will have much to worry about soon, so enjoy your pristine vegetative soybeans...for now. 😊

April May June July August September October



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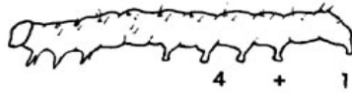
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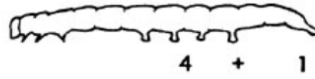


As moth activity increases, deposited eggs will yield caterpillar pests on soybeans. It is good skill to be able to identify adult moths flying around in fields. Use this chart to study moth and caterpillar identification.

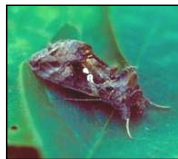
FIELD KEY TO COMMON SOYBEAN CATERpillARS



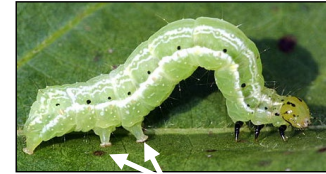
CORN EARWORM
4 + 1 pair prolegs
Curls up in hand
Black "warts" on body



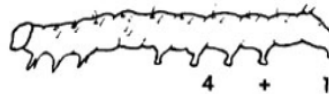
VELVETBEAN CATERPILLAR
4 + 1 pair prolegs
Very active when handled



SOYBEAN LOOPER
2 + 1 pair prolegs
Fatter at tail end
Looping movement



GREEN CLOVERWORM
3 + 1 pair prolegs
Not fatter at tail end
Looping movement



TOBACCO BUDWORM
4 + 1 pair prolegs
Curls up in hand
Black "warts" on body



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Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



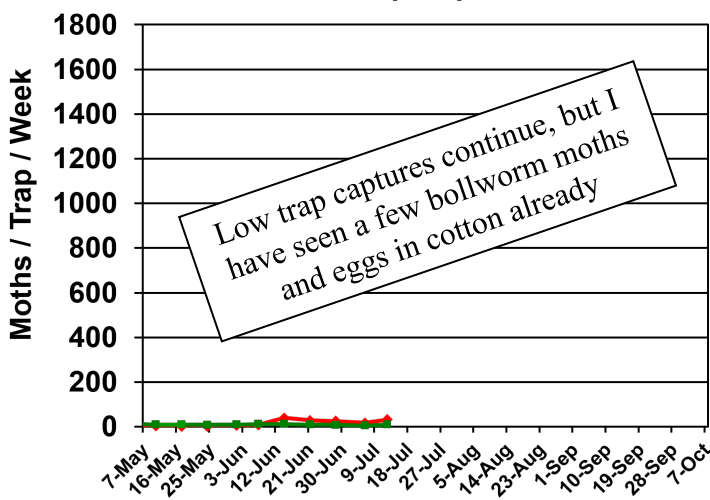
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2007-2020 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I provide these

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.

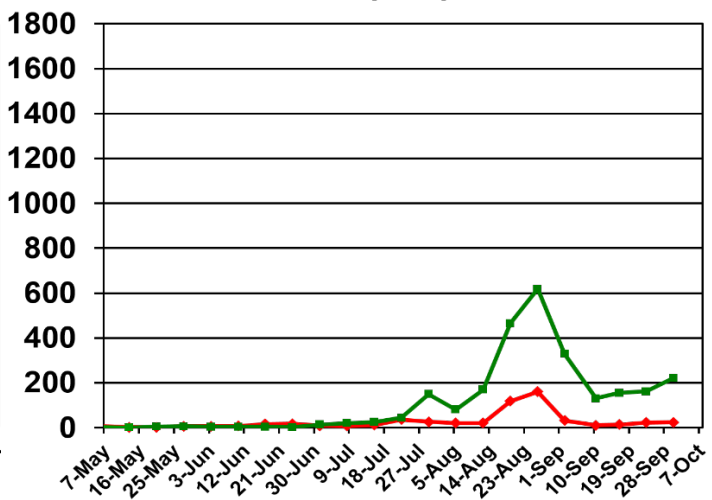
TBW
BW



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2021

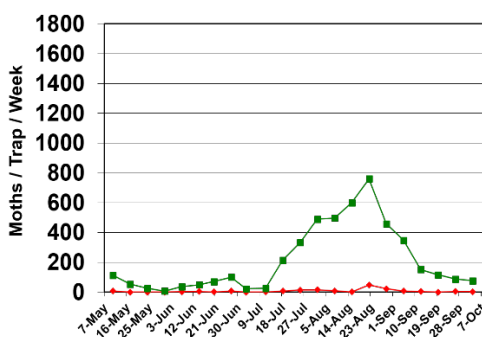


Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2020

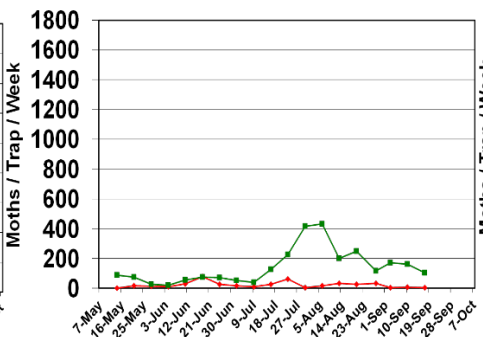


Trap data from 2007-2019 are shown below for reference to other years of trapping data from EREC:

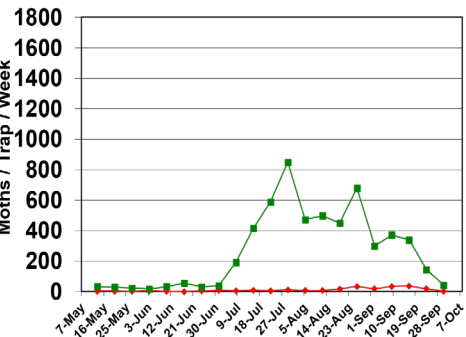
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2007



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2008



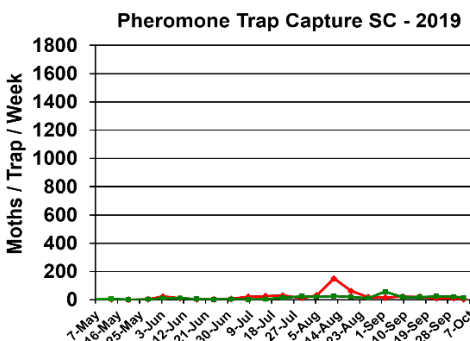
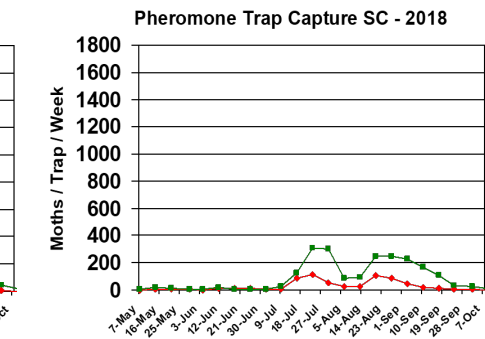
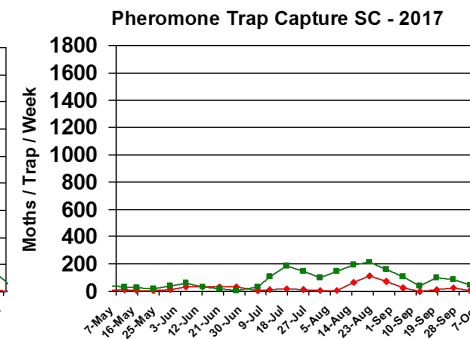
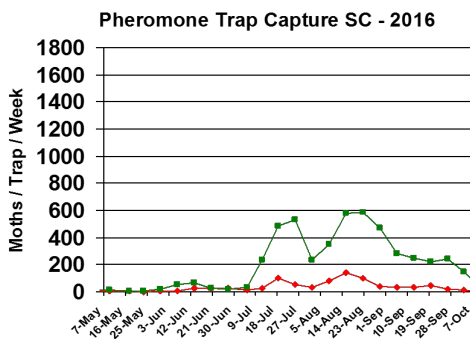
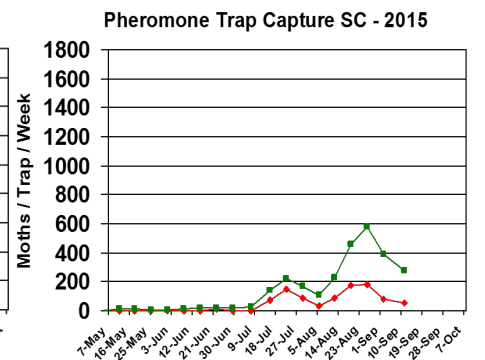
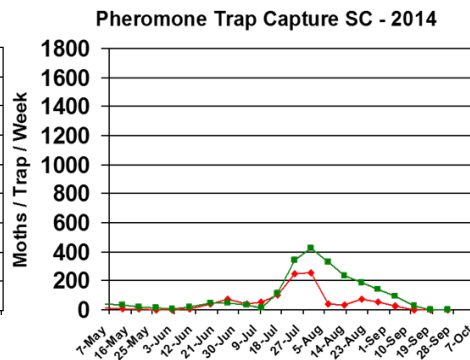
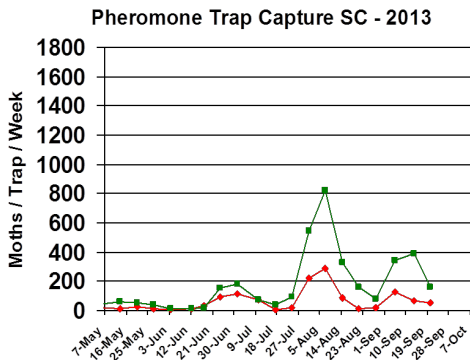
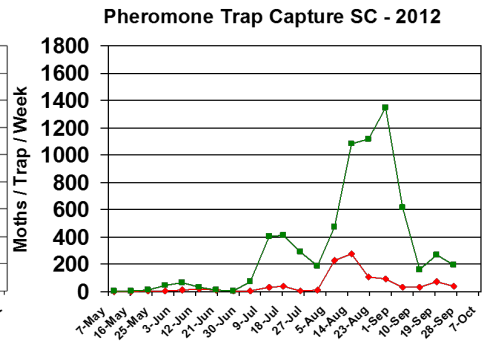
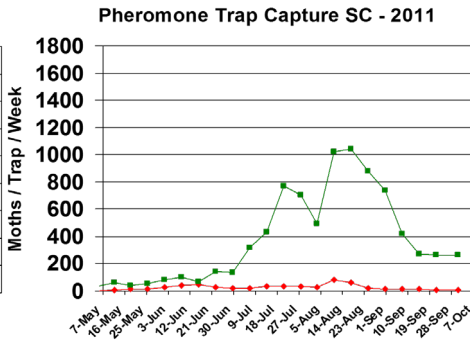
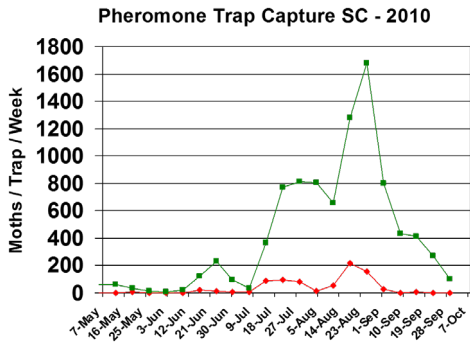
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2009



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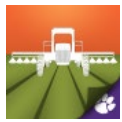


Pest Management Handbook – 2021

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2021 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at:

<https://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:

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

Sincerely,

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



Visit our website at:
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