



## *Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter*

Volume 8, Issue #2

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

16 May 2013

### *Pest Patrol Hotline*

The information contained herein each week is available via a toll-free hotline. 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 #1 for updates from the Southern Region. Select #3 for the Southeast, and then select #1 to hear my message. Text alerts are also available. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

### *Cotton/Soybean Insect Workshops*

We are tentatively planning to have two workshops in June devoted to insect sampling, identification, and management in cotton and soybeans here at the Edisto REC (64 Research Road, Blackville, SC 29817 – just west of Blackville on Hwy 78) and in the Pee Dee Region (most likely at the Pee Dee REC, 2200 Pocket Road, Florence, 29506). Tentative dates are 20 June for Edisto and 27 June for Pee Dee. We will have an indoor and in-field program, allowing for some hands-on training. More details will be available soon.

### *News from Above the Lakes*

No news to report this week. Email your observations to me by Wednesday for inclusion here.

### *News from Below the Lakes*

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### *News from the Piedmont/Upstate*

No news to report this week. Email your observations to me by Wednesday for inclusion here.

### *Cotton Situation*

As of 13 May 2013, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had the cotton crop at 22% planted, well behind where we were last year at 43% planted and the 5-yr average of 41% planted. Soil moisture conditions as a whole were described as 1% short, 88% adequate, and 11% surplus, but fields are quickly drying, and we need more rain in many locations now. Hopefully, we get some rain this weekend. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

### *Current Problems in Cotton*

As temperatures climb and lack of soil moisture is now becoming an issue (despite surplus rainfall events recently, it seems like we are never really more than a week away from a drought!), cotton wants to grow but needs some rain. I could feel thrips on my skin this week, and our research plot data indicated that population are climbing. We are picking up numerous immature thrips in our trials that were planted several weeks ago.

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*Public Service Activities*

*The mention of any commercial product in this publication does not imply its endorsement by Clemson University over other products not named, nor does the omission imply that they are not satisfactory.*



## Soybean Situation

As of 13 May 2013, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 18% planted, well behind where we were last year at 36% but not too far behind the 5-yr average of 24% planted. About 6% of the soybean crop has emerged, behind where we were last year at 18% and the 5-yr average of 11%. Conditions have not been favorable for planting soybeans until about now. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

## Kudzu Bugs

The kudzu bug is showing up in soybeans now here, and my colleague in Tifton, GA, Dr. Phillip Roberts, is seeing what we saw last year...early-planted soybeans covered already.

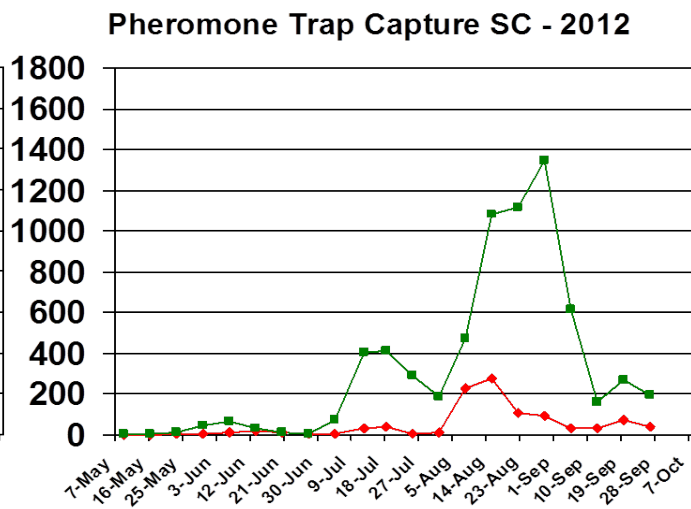
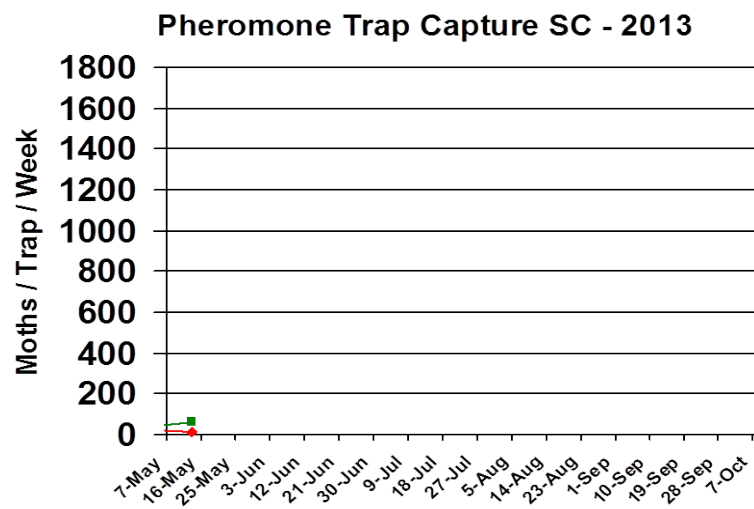


For now, our best recommendations are located in a kudzu bug field guide the USB helped us produce last year that is available online at: <http://digital.turn-page.com/i/87846>

## 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 2012 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for a very limited number of non-Bt-cotton acres. I provide these data as a measure of moth activity in our local area as an indication of moth presence and activity near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



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### **Sprayer Calibration Mobile App**



We have created a mobile app called “Calibrate My Sprayer” that helps check for proper calibration of spraying equipment. It can be downloaded for free onto your mobile device from the following webpage:

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

It is available in both iOS and Android formats. Here are a couple of screenshots. Additional mobile apps are on the way. I would appreciate your feedback on this app and the need for additional tools like this. If they are perceived as very useful, we will create more mobile apps.



### **Pest Management Handbook - 2013**

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2013 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/>

### **Need More Information?**

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

For historical cotton/soybean insect 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.  
Professor – Entomologist