



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 13, Issue #8

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

22 June 2018

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

Chris Talley, county agent covering many of the Upstate counties (Anderson, Abbeville, Cherokee, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens, and Spartanburg), reported that he hasn’t “seen much on cotton or soybeans up here. Some grasshoppers on soybean as usual. I really haven’t noticed as heavy of infestation of threecornered alfalfa hoppers as last year.” **Charles Davis**, county agent covering Calhoun and Richland Counties, reported that he has “been in corn fields all week but know a lot of topdress fertilizer and growth regulator is going out in cotton. We have cotton stretched from early bloom to just emerging, but, from what I am hearing, things are very quiet this week.” **Jonathan Croft**, county agent covering Orangeburg, Berkeley, and Dorchester Counties, reported that it has been “pretty quiet in the fields I have looked at” for insects. **Jay Crouch**, county agent covering Newberry, Saluda, and Edgefield Counties, reported that he “was in some cotton and beans today (21 June) - things look good for time being.”

Scouting Workshops

Your ag-focused county agents and I will be offering three **in-field scouting workshops** for cotton and soybean insects this summer. The interactive workshops will be held:

1. **18 July in Cameron, SC** (please RSVP with either Jonathan Croft [croft@clemsun.edu] or Charles Davis [cdvs@clemsun.edu], so we can plan for lunch)
2. **31 July in Lake City, SC** (please RSVP with either Hannah Mikell [hmikell@clemsun.edu] or 803-435-8429) or Jacob Stokes [stokes3@clemsun.edu], so we can plan for lunch)
3. **7 August at the Edisto REC near Blackville, SC** (again, so we can plan for lunch, please RSVP with either me [green4@clemsun.edu], Mary Katherine Bamberg [mbamber@clemsun.edu], Joe Varn [jvarn@clemsun.edu], or Marion Barnes [jbrns@clemsun.edu]).

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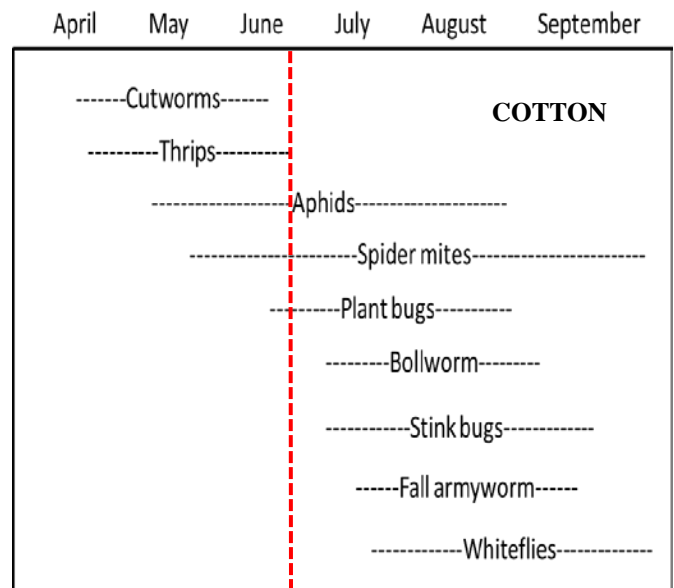
The trainings will be free to attend, start in the morning, and end with lunch. Stay tuned for more information. Detailed information will be sent out as each training date approaches.

Cotton Situation

As of 17 June 2018, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 96% of the crop has been planted, compared with 92% the previous week, 97% at this time last year, and 96% for the 5-year average. About 19% of the crop is squaring, compared with 4% the previous week, 21% at this time last year, and 14% for the 5-year average. The condition of the crop was described as 12% excellent, 69% good, 19% fair, 0% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Cotton Insects

We are done with thrips. Even the latest planted cotton should not experience significant pressure from thrips at this point. We are now in the window where we need to focus on scouting for aphids, spider mites, and plant bugs. This interval between thrips and blooming cotton is not a time to ease up on scouting cotton, as we will deal with aphids, spider mites, and plant bugs for the next several weeks, until we see moths and stink bugs flying around in cotton. As I stated last week, stink bugs are already abundant, and non-Bt corn here at Edisto and around the state is full of corn earworms that will be crawling down from ears to pupate in the ground. We will start to see those moths emerge in the coming weeks, so we should have plenty watch for on bollworms and stink bugs to keep us busy when cotton starts blooming and setting fruit.



Aphids, spider mites, and plant bugs

The comments I provided last week about aphids, spider mites, and plant bugs still apply to this week. If you missed those and are interested in these groups, it is worth a look back at last week's newsletter, where I included many photos. All of those pests are present to some level in our fields...you have to go check and scout to see if they are exceeding treatment thresholds. Thresholds for each of these groups are difficult to conduct research on, but our best scientific information supports the following for each:

- Aphids – Treat only when high numbers of aphids are severely infesting plants, populations are building, and the margins of terminal leaves are drooping. Aphids will cause more damage when plants are suffering from lack of moisture, and there are few signs of natural control agents. If there is evidence of widespread parasitism (dead aphids, tan colored and swollen in appearance) and/or fungal pathogens (diseased aphid bodies have a grayish-green colored fuzzy appearance)

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an insecticide should not be applied. Avoid unnecessary insecticide applications, as subsequent reductions in beneficial populations can result in damage from bollworm and fall armyworm.

- Spider mites – Infestations of spider mites usually appear in border rows of a field or sometimes in isolated spots within a field. When mites first appear, treating border rows or spot treating may prevent outbreaks. Thresholds are not well-defined for spider mites, so we have to keep checking for mites and eggs under leaves (get a hand lens), looking for stippling on the tops of leaves, and just generally scouting for spider mites, deciding to treat only when it is clearly necessary. Remember, a hard rain usually provides good “control” of spider mites, so plan spraying around rain events to potentially save money on sprays.

- Plant bugs – Plant-bug injury to squares rarely causes economic problems in South Carolina. An

economic problem could develop if an early-maturing variety was planted late, an average of 3 plant bugs per 6 rowft is detected using a beat cloth or beat pan, an average of 1 plant bug per 10 sweeps, and 25% or more of pinhead squares have been lost. Check for the presence or absence of 1st position squares from the top of the plant and down a few nodes. Can you spot the squares (at least 7 easily visible) on the plant in this photo? All present and accounted for on this plant checked yesterday. Pyrethroid insecticides generally provide control of plant bugs when applied at stink bug/bollworm control rates. Avoid treating Bt cotton for plant bugs unless absolutely necessary in June and July as subsequent reductions



in beneficial populations often trigger problems with bollworm or fall armyworm. Plant bugs can also injure small bolls like stink bugs. For combinations of plant and stink bugs feeding on small bolls, use boll-injury treatment thresholds for stink bugs.

As an update, on the next page is a photo of a trial we planted about 7 weeks ago in a field infested with a good population of nematodes. We also had moderate pressure from thrips in this trial. The untreated plot on the left (fungicides only on the seed) looks terrible, especially when compared with the plot on

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the right treated with aldicarb (AgLogic 15GG) at 5 lb/acre at planting (also on top of the same fungicide-treated seed). Even the pigweed on the 2nd row of the aldicarb plot looks very happy with its location.

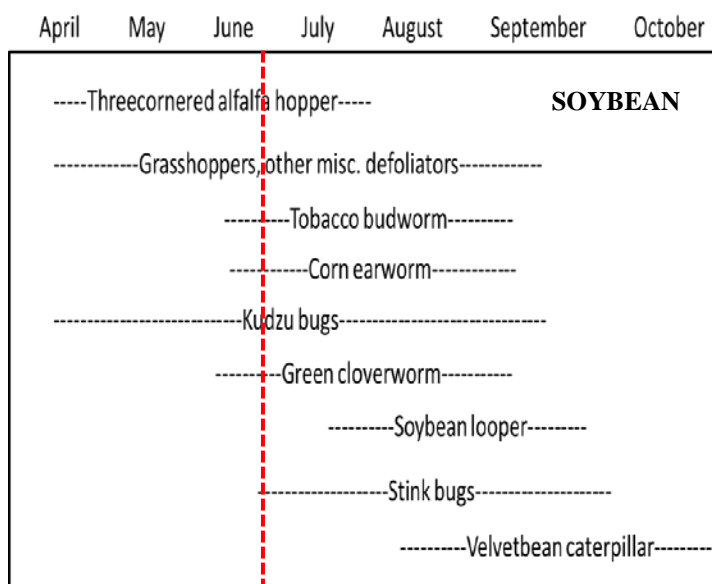


Soybean Situation

As of 17 June 2018, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 90% of our soybean crop has been planted, compared with 78% the previous week, 79% at this time last year, and 78% for the 5-year average. About 65% of the crop has emerged, compared with 47% the previous week, 63% at this time last year, and 62% for the 5-year average. The condition of the crop was described as 0% excellent, 73% good, 25% fair, 0% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Soybean Insects

Again, there is not much to report regarding insect issues in soybeans for this past week. If you take a look at the timeline chart above, you can see what major pests you are generally at risk for at this time of year. Caterpillar pests will be here soon enough, but don't forget to scout vegetative soybeans to ensure that problems with insects are not present. Scout early soybeans for insects!



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Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm

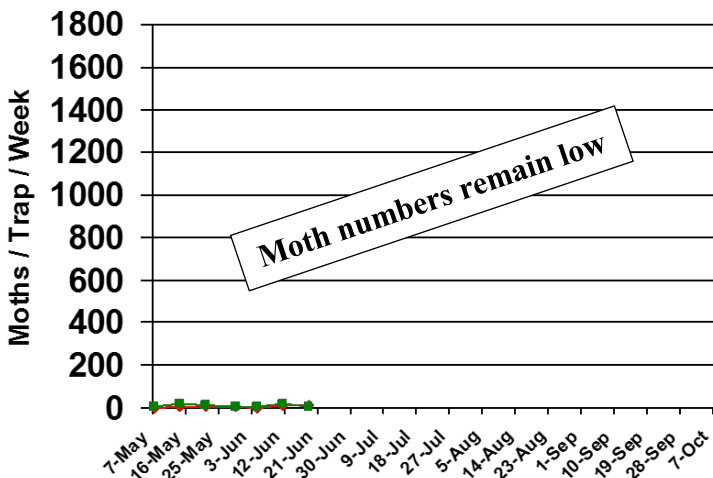


Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2017 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I provide these

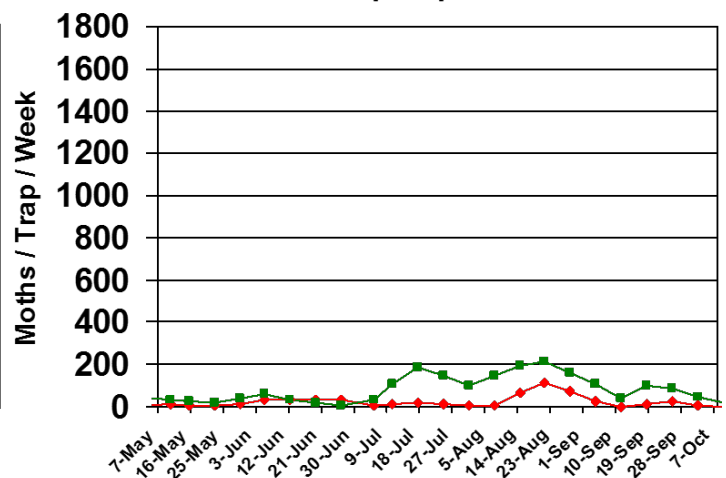
data as a measure of moth presence and activity in our local area near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2018

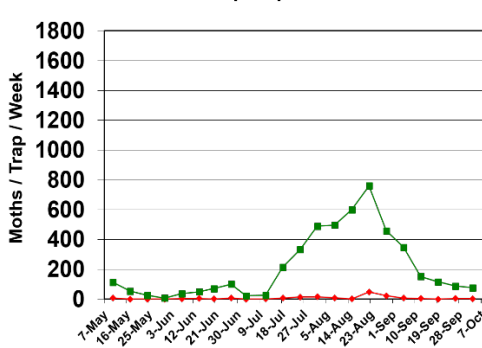


Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2017

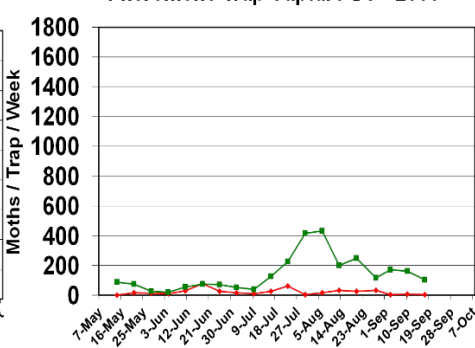


Trap data from 2007-2016 are shown below for reference to other years of trapping data from EREC:

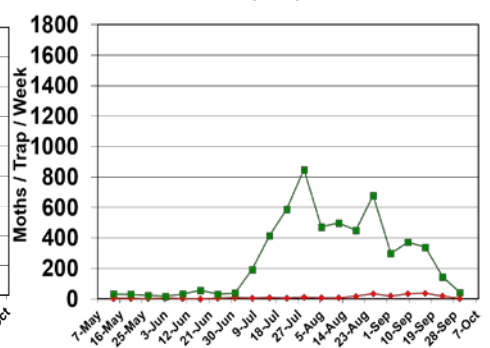
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2007



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2008



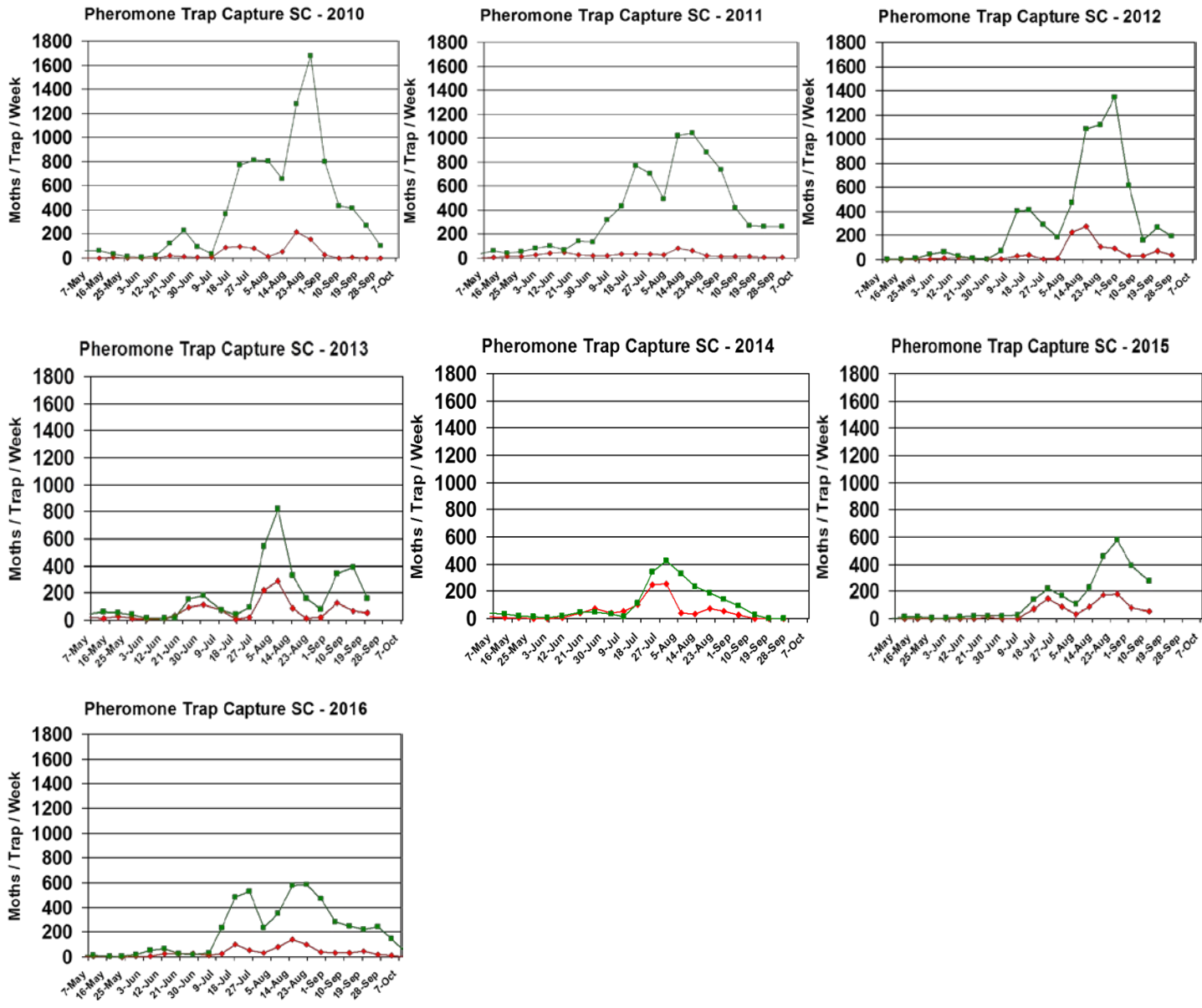
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2009



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Pest Management Handbook – 2018

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2018 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/pest%20management%20handbook.html>

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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>

Sincerely,

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



Visit our website at:
<http://www.clemson.edu>

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