



## ***Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter***

**Volume 14, Issue #12    Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC    23 August 2019**

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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.



### **Row-Crop Field Day**

On 5 September 2019 we will have a Row-Crop Field Day at the Edisto REC near Blackville, SC. Peanuts will be covered in the AM tour, and all other crops (cotton, soybean, etc.) will be covered in the PM tour. Pesticide license and CCA credits will be offered. **A brief program will be available next week.**

### **News from Around the State**

**Jay Crouch**, county Ag agent in Newberry County and covering much of the Upstate reported that “kudzu bug immatures are building in soybeans with very low incidence of fungus. We’ll have a field or two treated early next week. Greene cloverworm populations are also increasing, but foliage loss is still below threshold. Found a couple of velvetbean caterpillars yesterday but nothing exciting yet. Cotton is basically taking care of itself at this point. Received some desperately needed rain this week.” Other agents and consultants have reported reduced activity from stink bugs in cotton but increased activity with spider mites. Hopefully, hard rains this weekend will reduce the populations of spider mites on cotton and peanuts.

### **Cotton Situation**

As of 18 August 2019, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 97% of the crop is setting bolls, compared with 86% at this time last week, 79% at this time last year, and 88% for the 5-year average. About 10% of the crop has bolls opening, compared with 1% at this time last week, 4% at this time last year, and 3% for the 5-year average. The condition of the crop was described as 6% excellent, 55% good, 34% fair, 5% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

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and it is always an isolated incident that does not repeat regularly. As I mentioned, VBC are migratory, so we get what we get on populations and resistance. I have some of these VBC in a bioassay to screen various insecticides. I will report back what we find. The results will be useful for follow-up sprays, if we ever see this again with a pyrethroid on VBC. I am also seeing egg masses from stink bugs in blooming soybeans.



Treatment guidelines for soybean insects sampled with a sweep net.

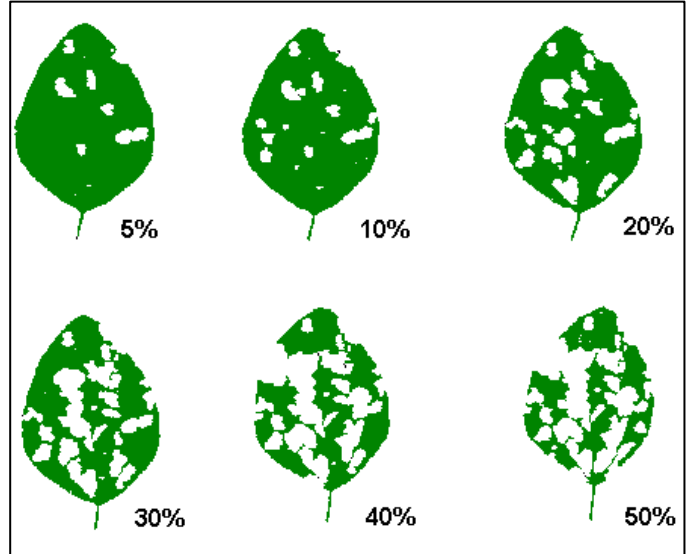
Pest	Number per 10 sweeps	Comments
stink bug	1-2	
corn earworm	3	or 15% foliage loss
velvetbean caterpillar	10	or 15% foliage loss
soybean looper	15	or 15% foliage loss
kudzu bug	10 (nymphs)	1 nymph per sweep

For other foliage feeders use a threshold of 30% defoliation before first bloom, 15% after first bloom.

Treatment thresholds (per rowft) for insects sampled with beat cloth.

Pest	Row width (inches)				
	38	30	21	14	7
stink bug	1	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.2
corn earworm*	2	1.6	1.1	0.7	0.4
velvetbean caterpillar	4-6	4	2.7	1.8	0.9
soybean looper	6-8	5.5	3.8	2.6	1.3

\*this is the pod-feeding threshold for corn earworm



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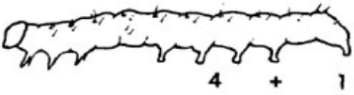


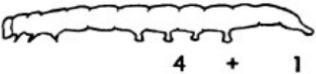








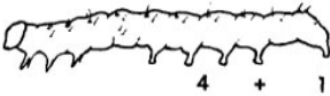



The pictures below will help you identify damaging caterpillars and the moths that deposit the eggs from which the larvae hatch. Being able to recognize the moths is a great skill to have, as it will let you know what to expect in the coming days when eggs are deposited and start hatching. Know these major species:

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(2017) Prepared by Jeremy Greene, Professor of Entomology

### FIELD KEY TO COMMON SOYBEAN CATERpillARS

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

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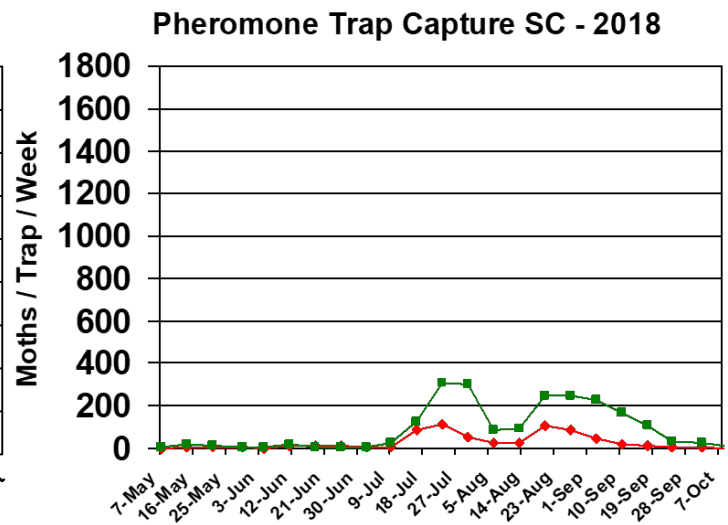
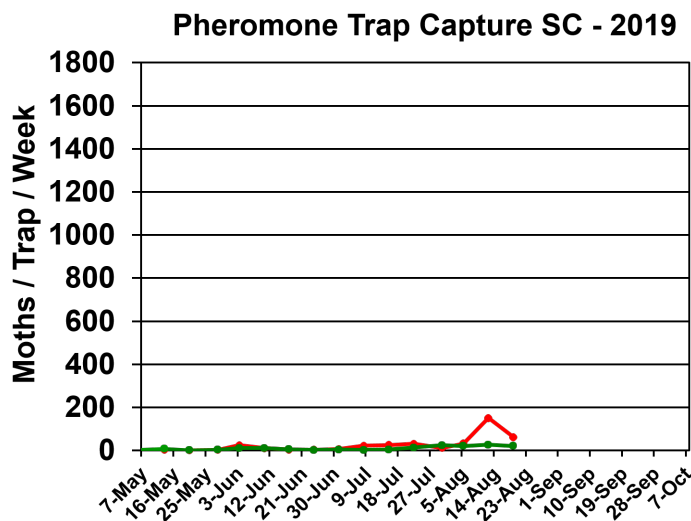
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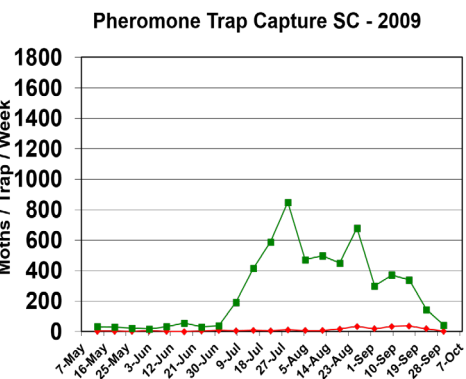
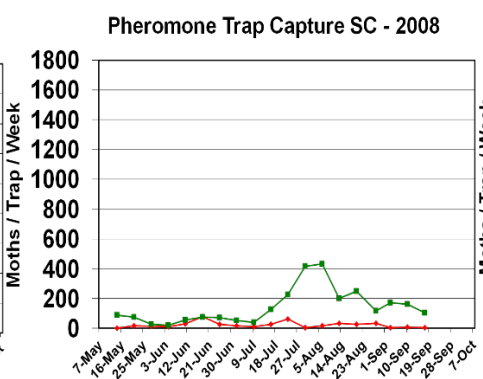
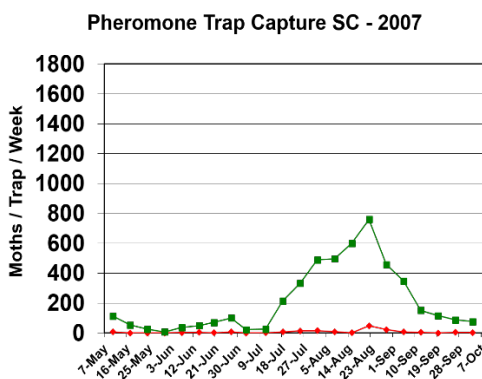
## Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2018 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.



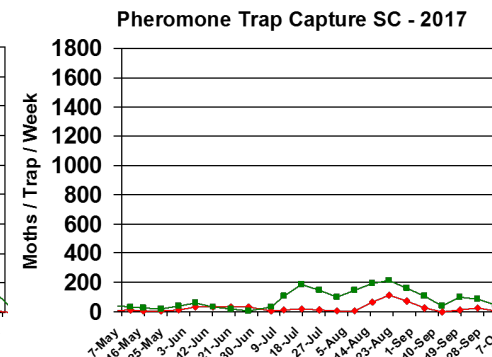
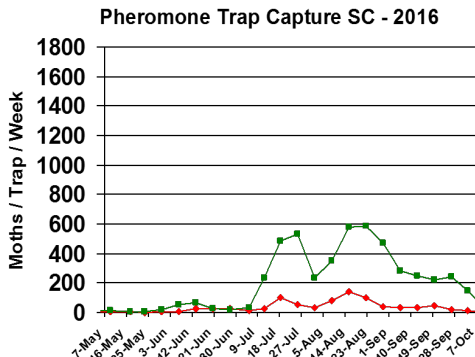
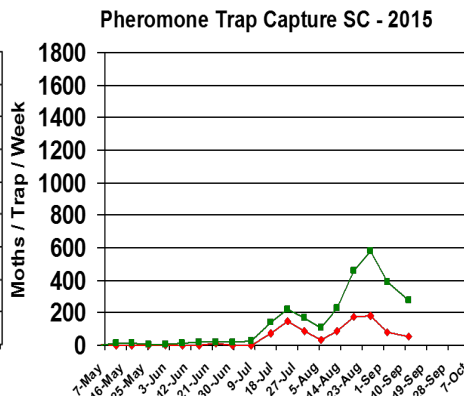
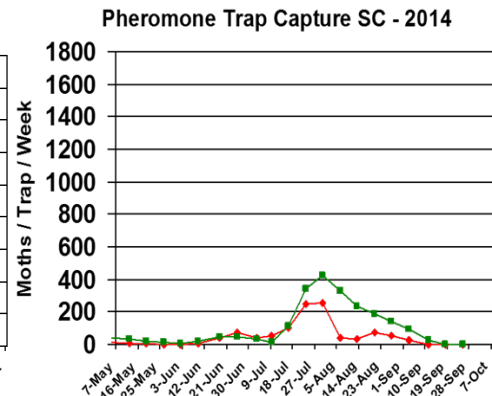
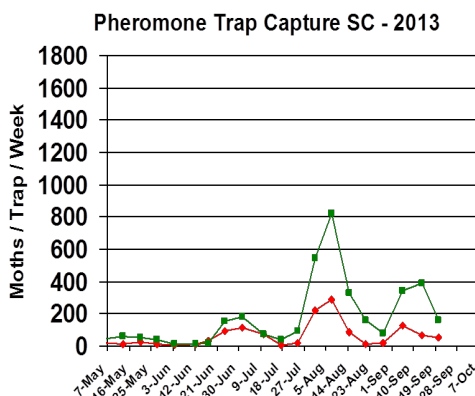
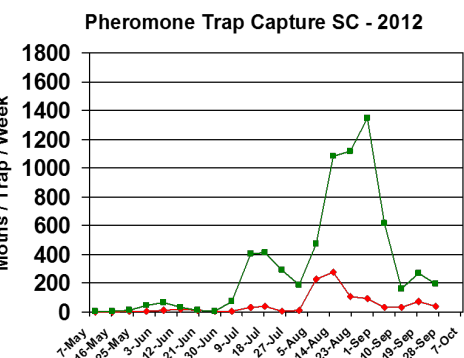
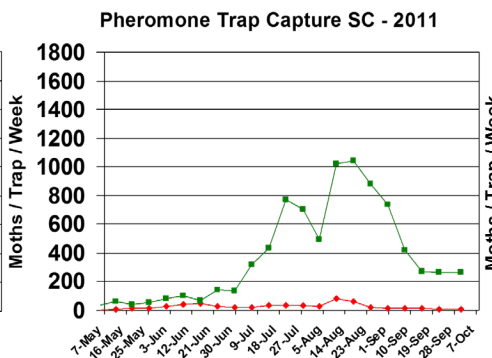
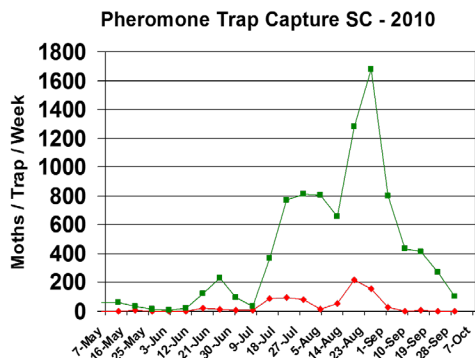
Trap data from 2007-2017 are shown below for reference to other years of trapping data from EREC:



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## **Pest Management Handbook – 2019**

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2019 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at:

<https://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/pest%20management%20handbook.html>

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<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



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