



Cotton Insect Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue #4

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

29 May 2008

Status of Cotton Crop

It is getting dry in most places, and it has been relatively cool for the last couple of days. Intermittent rain events with little precipitation when they do occur are inadequate for some of the crop that needs to finish germinating and getting out of the ground. Thrips injury is increasing on plants needing rain, warmer temperatures, and better conditions to outgrow continued feeding injury.

As of 25 May 2008, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 79% of the crop being planted, just barely behind the 5-yr average of 80%. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Status of Soybean Crop & Insects

As the wheat is harvested, soybeans will be planted, so we are still waiting on most of that crop to get going. Early-maturing beans and some later-maturing beans have been planted, and some are still experiencing problems with grasshoppers. Lorsban and labeled pyrethroids are the products of choice for grasshoppers that threaten stands.

We will be having a 'Soybean Scouting Training' on 23 July in Bishopville, SC, at the Cotton Museum (yes, the cotton museum). Randy Cabbage is the contact person for registering for this training session. His phone number is 803-484-5416 ext. 111 or 114. His email address is: RCBBGE@clermson.edu Please let Randy know if you are interested in attending this training. The tentative agenda is below – the program will be hands-on in the field and will target consultants and interested soybean producers. County agriculture agents and industry representatives are welcome as well.

We have set Tuesday, July 23 at 8:30 AM at the S.C. Cotton Museum a scouting school specifically for soybeans. Jeremy Greene, Jay Chapin and John Mueller plan to be here. This is being done in cooperation with Crop Production Services who will sponsor the lunch. This is primarily for consultants, scouts, industry and Extension but it is also open to any growers who want to participate. The school might also incorporate in-service for agents and CCA credits.

Agenda:

- 8:30 – 9:00 AM Registration
- 9:00 Intro and meeting format---Cabbage
- 9:05 Insect ID & sampling procedures—Jeremy Greene/Jay Chapin
- 9:35 Soybean diseases—John Mueller
- 10:00 Distribute scouting kits (to include beat cloths) and head to Group 4 soybean field (Johnny Houser)
- 10:00 – 12:00 Field ID and Sampling insects and diseases—Greene/Chapin/Mueller
- 12:30 Sponsored lunch (Crop Production Services)
- 1:30P Adjourn

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News from Above the Lakes

Randy Cabbage in Lee County reported that some spraying for some thrips is occurring. Overall planting intentions in his county are 8,053 acres in 2008. That is down 70% from 2006. He also reports that glyphosate tolerant/resistant pigweed will likely be more of a problem this year than last.

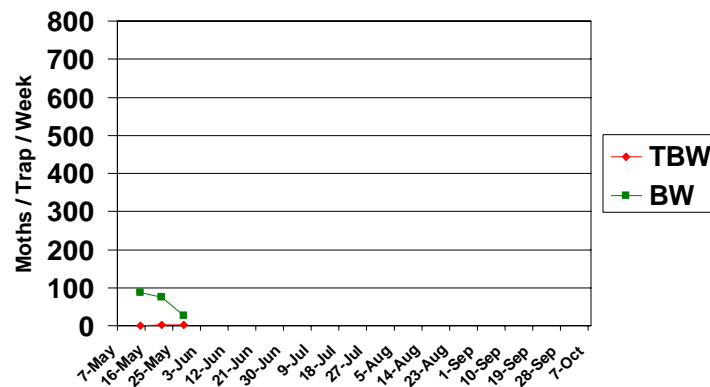
News from Below the Lakes

No news this week. Please send me your observations and comments!

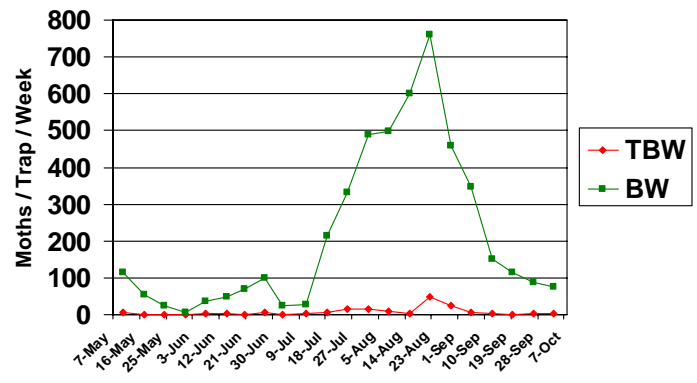
Tobacco Budworm & Bollworm

Captures of adult tobacco budworm and bollworm in pheromone traps at Edisto REC for this season and last season are pictured below. The scales on the 2008 and 2007 charts are the same to illustrate where we are compared with last year. Bollworm numbers look much like they did last year. Just like last week, we caught about 27-28 tobacco budworm moths in a couple of traps.

Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2008 (EREC)



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2007 (EREC)



Thrips

As I mentioned in the ‘status of the cotton crop’ section, injury from thrips continues to be additive to the crop and will likely get a little worse until significant moisture comes our way. The pictures below are from cotton plants planted during mid-May completely untreated with Temik or any seed treatment. The cotyledons escaped much injury, but the first two true leaves are sustaining significant injury from thrips. Most of the crop with Temik or a seed treatment (i.e. Avicta or Aeris) looks much better, but there are some situations where these approaches or even the combination of seed treatment and Temik are going to need some foliar applications of insecticide for thrips. Monitor seedlings closely for the next week or two. The treatment threshold for thrips on seedling cotton is somewhere in the range of 2-4 thrips per plant (less if immatures are present) with damage apparent. The presence of immatures is of most concern. When treatment with insecticide is justified, use the higher rates of those recommended below.

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THRIPS (FOLIAR SPRAYS)

Product	Product/acre	Lb ai/acre	Acre/gal	REI	PHI	Comments
dicrotophos (R) Bidrin 8 E	1.6-3.2 oz	0.1-0.2	40-80	6 d	30 d	3.2 oz limit pre-square
acephate		0.15-0.18		24 hr	21 d	
Orthene 97	2.5-3.0 oz		-			
Orthene 90 S	2.67-3.2 oz		-			
Acephate 90 S	2.67-3.2 oz		-			
dimethoate		0.125-0.25		48 hr	14 d	
Dimethoate 4 EC	4-8 oz		16-32			

Generally a soil insecticide used at planting will protect seedling plants from the severe stunting that is characteristic of thrips injury. Occasionally, however, conditions will be unfavorable for proper uptake of systemic insecticides (too cool, dry soil, excessive moisture, etc.) and plants can be severely damaged. **Foliar treatments will be most effective when applied to cotton seedlings prior to unfolding of the second true leaf.** At this growth stage a foliar insecticide treatment may be needed when two or more thrips are found per plant. Shake each plant (randomly select 25 or more) into a coffee cup or a similar utensil to facilitate counting. When most plants have severely damaged growing points and immature thrips are present, one or more foliar treatments may be needed to allow the plants to resume normal growth and development. Examine plants 5-7 days after the initial treatment, and treat again if immatures are still present on most plants. When the newly unfolded leaves of infested plants are free of damage, and plants appear to be growing at a normal rate, further applications of insecticides will have little benefit. Treatments applied beyond the four-leaf stage of growth may actually be counter productive, as these would likely reduce beneficial populations and result in early-season problems with other pests.

Need More Information?

Log on to the following webpage to view important cotton management recommendations, data, and historical cotton insect newsletters: <http://www.clemson.edu/scg/ipm/cotton.html>

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.
Cotton Entomologist