



## Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 16, Issue #6 Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

4 June 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.

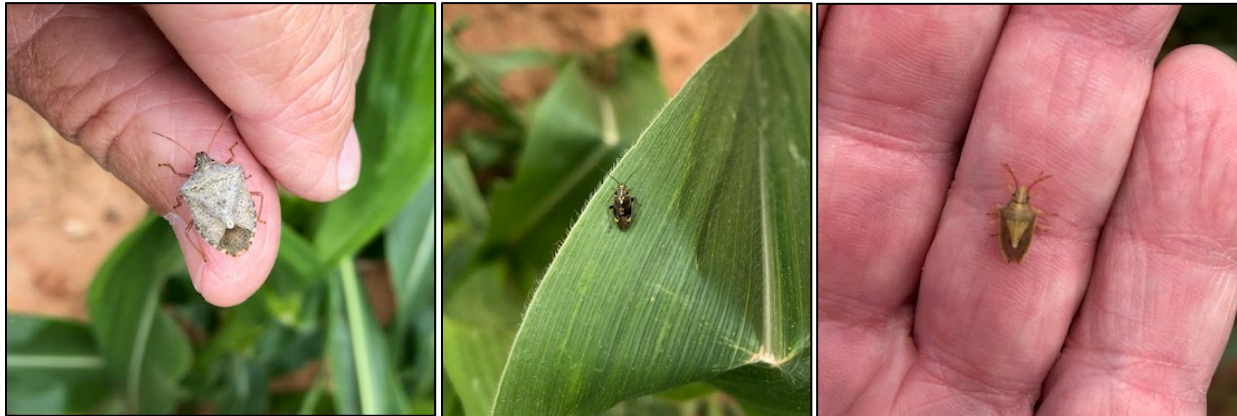
### Updates on Twitter

When noteworthy events happen 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.



### News from Around the State

**Charles Davis**, county agent covering Calhoun and Richland Counties, reported “some critters I found in sweet corn field next to a cotton field” (BSB, tarnished plant bug, and rice stink bug).



Also, **Drake Perrow**, crop consultant in Cameron, SC, reported spider mites in early peanuts this week. Hopefully, the rains will wash them away, and we will not hear about spider mites for weeks. Heavy rain is the best material we can put on spider mites in cotton.

### Scouting Workshops and Field Days

We going to offer several in-field, in-person workshops devoted to scouting for insect issues in cotton and soybeans. These scouting workshops are being scheduled for late July 2021. We will continue to update

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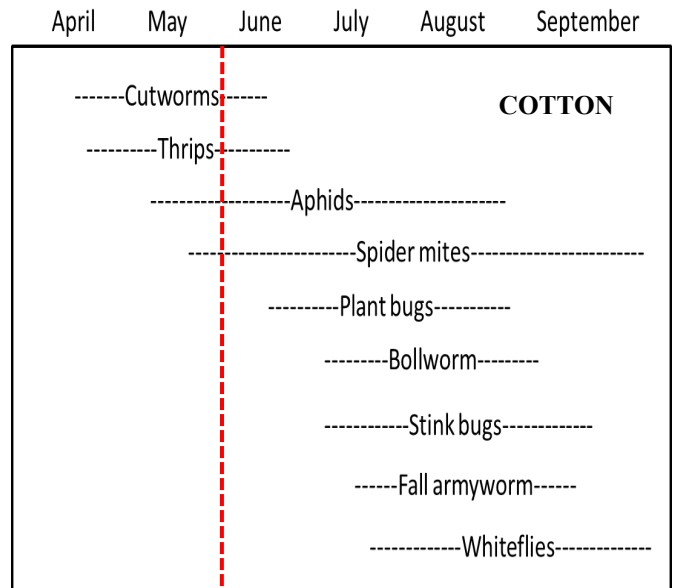
on progress in planning for those workshops. We are planning to have an in-person field day here at the Edisto REC on 2 September 2021, with at least row crops (cotton, soybeans, peanuts, corn, grain sorghum, etc.) covered. Stay tuned for details on those events.

## Cotton Situation

As of 30 May 2021, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 85% of the crop has been planted, compared with 73% at this time last week, 71% at this time last year, and 78% for the 5-year average. The conditions of the crop were 4% excellent, 51% good, 19% fair, 23% poor, and 3% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

## Cotton Insects

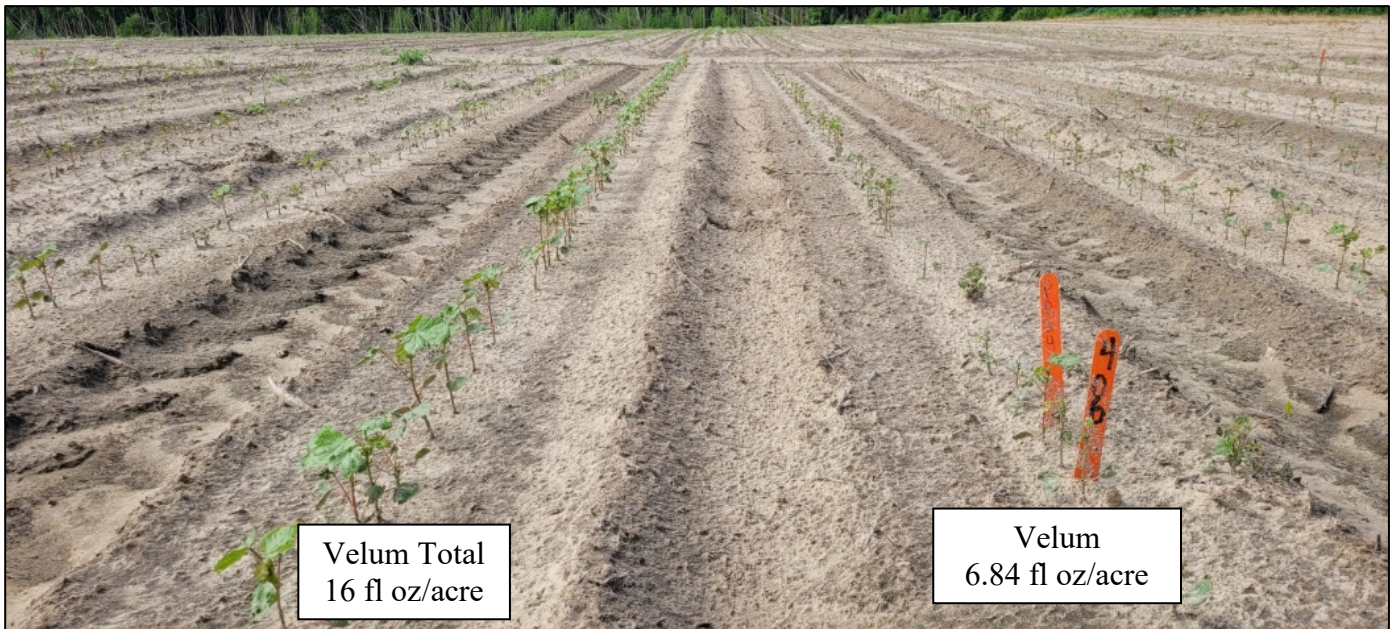
We are still dealing with thrips on seedling cotton that we usually “turn loose” on spray treatments for thrips (i.e. 4- or 5-leaf cotton). We are also still hearing reports of grasshoppers being a problem, but more widespread are issues with thrips. Most of this stems from the hot, dry conditions we have experienced in the last few weeks that resulted in slower growth than normal which also led to us not getting all we could have gotten out of at-plant, systemic insecticides. Normally, we would not treat for thrips on 4- or 5-leaf cotton, but some years are rough, and we need to remove some stress to avoid at least a delay in maturity and maybe yield loss, if plants are killed. The best outcome right now for the crop is heavy and widespread rain followed by warm, sunny days. This would solve a lot of problems. If that looks unlikely for your cotton, and you are still experiencing pronounced injury from thrips, you have to consider spraying something (Orthene, Radiant, Bidrin, etc.). However, make sure that your observations have some sort of comparison, if possible, because this will give you a clear picture of how bad it actually is. Consider the photos on the next page from some of my '21 research plots where we have the luxury of side-by-side comparisons of injury. In the photo on the top, the cotton on the right was planted with an in-furrow spray of a product (Velum) active on nematodes and not on thrips, so it looks like an untreated control. The cotton on the left was planted with an in-furrow spray (Velum Total) active on nematodes and thrips. If you were just looking at a field of this “late-seedling” cotton treated with Velum Total, you might think that it needs a foliar spray for thrips. But, in comparison with the other cotton, it is doing just fine and will likely grow out of this without much of a delay and no loss of yield. So, try to find something to compare with (a row missing an in-furrow application, an adjacent field with worse injury, etc.) before you declare it needing a follow-up spray for thrips. The photo on the bottom shows AgLogic at 5 lb/acre on the left versus Velum Total at 16 fl oz/acre on the right. If you had a field full of the cotton



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treated with Velum Total, you might think it has some injury, but it will grow out of it, but if you had the side-by-side comparison with AgLogic, you might think we should spray the Velum Total. The cotton on the right will probably be delayed, but it might not suffer too bad on yield, depending on the remainder of the season. My point here is that what you have (4- or 5-leaf cotton) might not be as bad as it looks, and it might grow out of the injury just fine without a spray. It is certainly relative. It is a judgement call when it gets late for thrips sprays – consider the forecast, costs, continuing new injury, etc.



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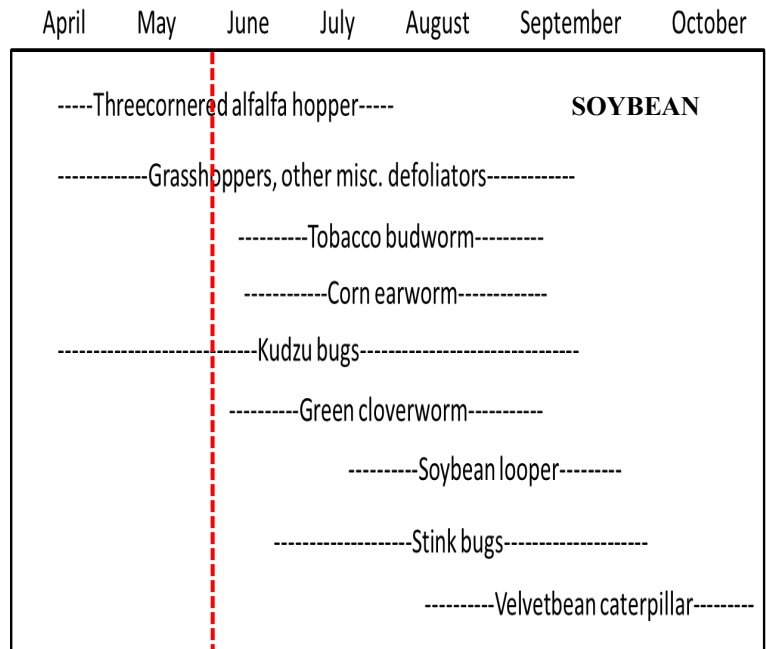
## Soybean Situation

As of 30 May 2021, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 73% of the crop has been planted, compared with 60% the previous week, 47% at this time last year, and 50% for the 5-year average. About 54% of the crop has emerged, compared with 42% the previous week, 31% at this time last year, and 29% for the 5-year average. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

## Soybean Insects

We continue to need rain in SC, even if you received some recently, you need more. The dry weeks we have experienced have certainly affected planting and emergence in dryland fields. We might need a tropical system to deliver the rain we need (no wind), as the storms coming across the county are too tired when they get here.

Grasshoppers continue to be an issue with establishing good stands of soybeans and cotton this season. I have not heard of many problems other than grasshoppers primarily. But, it is early, and you know how much insects enjoy feeding on soybeans. There will be plenty to discuss soon, I'm afraid. As I mentioned last week, don't ignore your vegetative stage soybeans. Check them occasionally for hidden problems with plant hoppers, kudzu bugs, grasshoppers, or borers, and don't just wait until full canopy and defoliation after blooming. Check them early!



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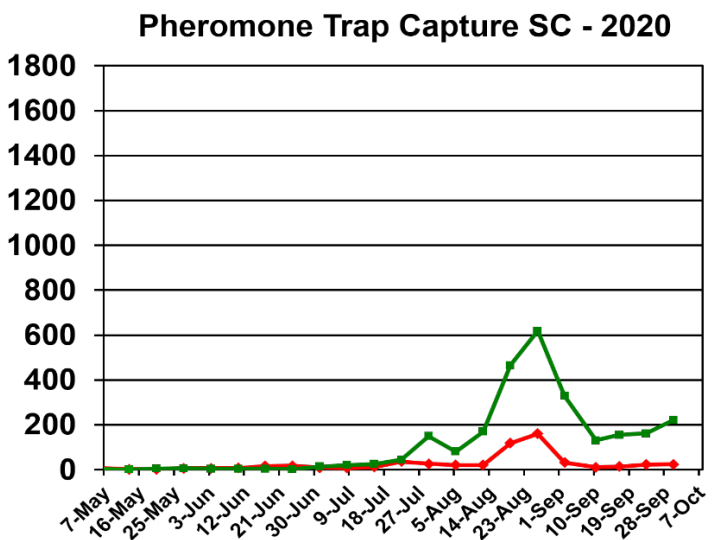
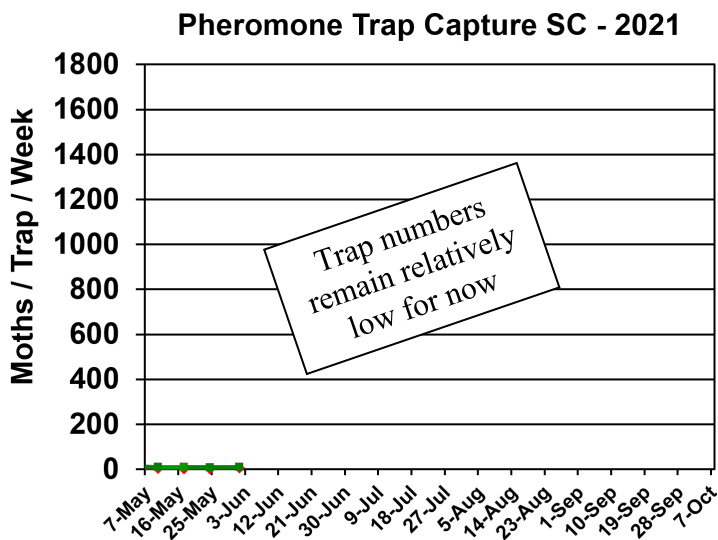
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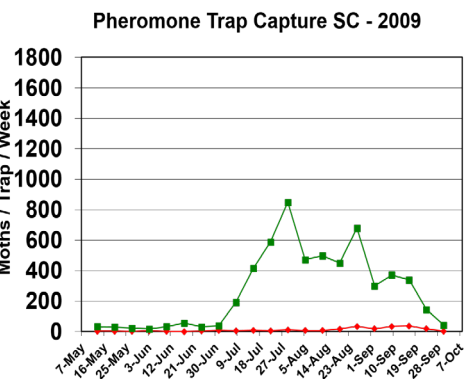
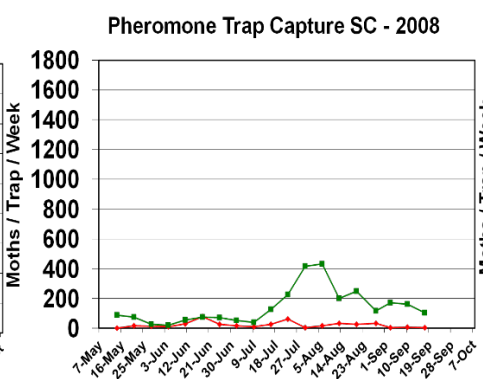
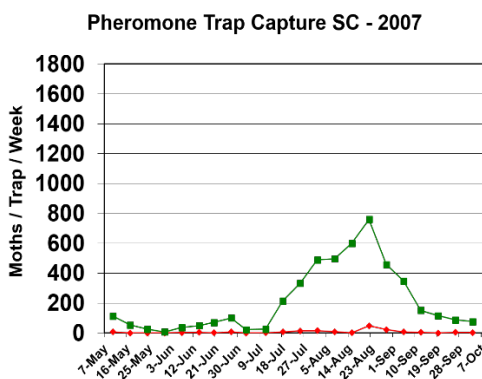
## Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



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



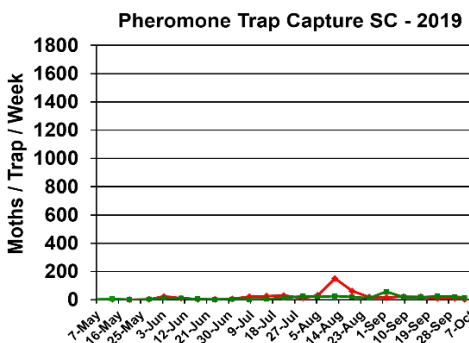
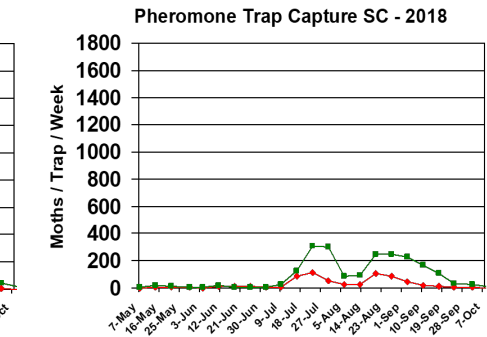
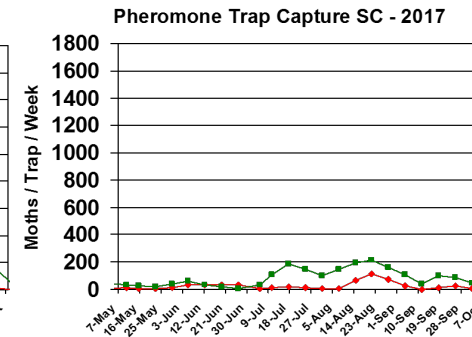
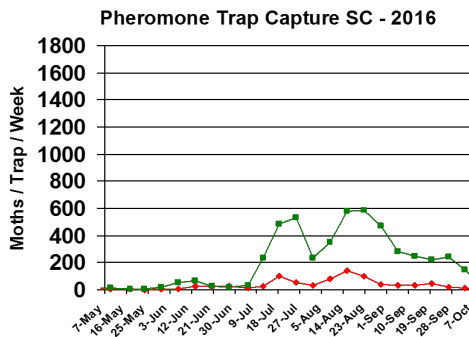
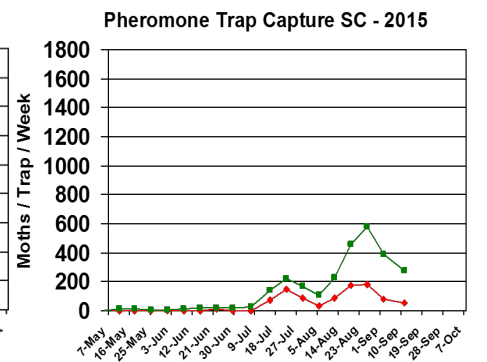
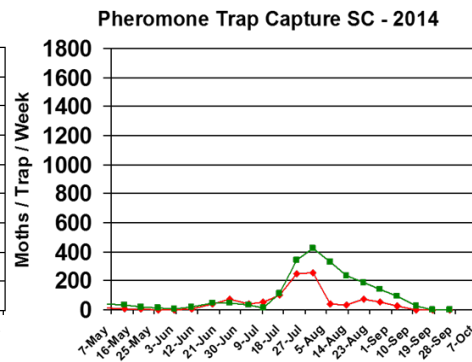
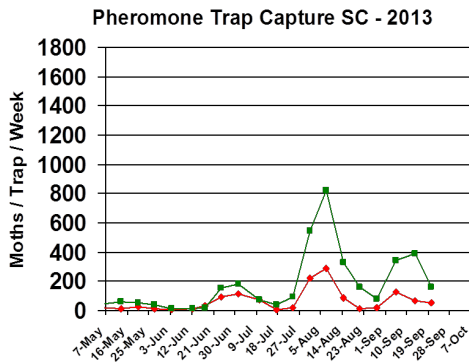
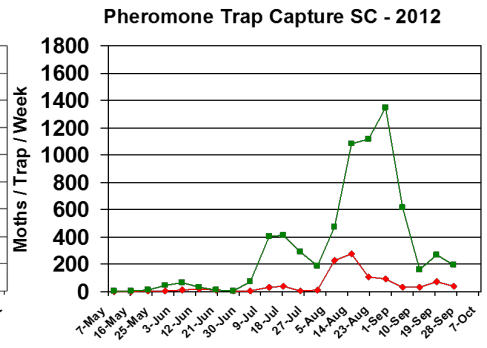
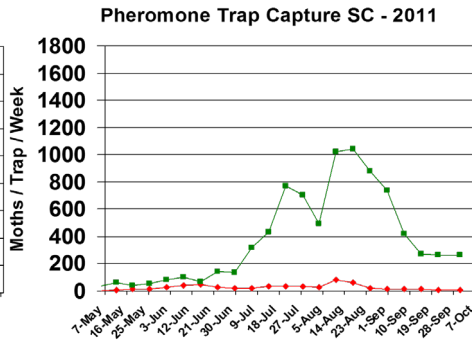
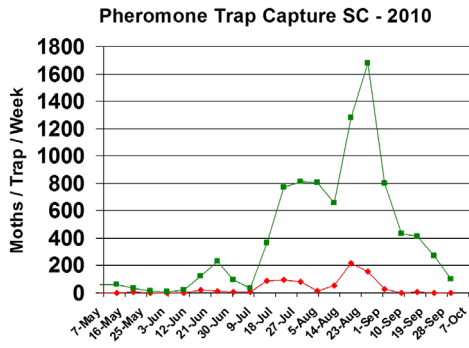
Trap data from 2007-2019 are shown below for reference to other years of trapping data from EREC:



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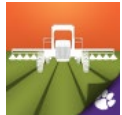


### **Pest Management Handbook – 2021**

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:  
<http://www.clemson.edu>

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