



## *Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter*

Volume 6, Issue #9

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

30 June 2011

### *Pest Patrol Hotline*

If you do not have access to this newsletter but want the information contained herein each week, there is a toll-free hotline for insect problems updated here. 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 #3 for the Southeast, and select #1 to hear my message. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

### *News from Above the Lakes*

Randy Cubbage, county agent covering Lee, Kershaw, and Sumter Counties, found kudzu bugs in soybeans in Kershaw County this week.

### *News from Below the Lakes*

Tommy Walker, county agent covering Hampton, Jasper, and Allendale Counties, reported that he and Amanda Wright, research associate at Edisto, found bean plataspid adults and eggs on soybean in Hampton County yesterday. Jonathan Croft, county agent covering Dorchester and Berkeley Counties, reported that he looked at a soybean field that was partially infested with kudzu bug a week after it was sprayed with a herbicide/insecticide tankmix (glyphosate + *lambda*-cyhalothrin), and the insects were already re-colonizing the field. Charles Davis, county agent covering Calhoun and Orangeburg Counties, reported that he “found kudzu bugs in soybeans in Calhoun County [yesterday] and that cotton insects seemed quiet.” He also mentioned that the scattered rain on Tuesday evening was welcomed, but it was not nearly enough!

### *News from the Piedmont/Upstate*

Cory Heaton, county agent covering Chester, York, and Lancaster Counties, reported that the drought in his area has overshadowed all other problems. He also has checked soybeans up his way and has not found kudzu bugs in beans yet, although they remain present in kudzu. Jay Crouch, county agent in Newberry, reported that “we’ve finally gotten some much needed moisture. Cotton actually looks pretty good right now. Beans are holding their own, but planting is behind schedule. Chris Talley, county agent covering Anderson, Pickens, and Spartanburg Counties, reported that he is seeing “plenty of kudzu bugs”.

### *Cotton Situation*

As of 27 June 2011, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 100% of the crop being planted. About 25% of the crop is squaring, compared with 32% last year at this time and 29% for the 5-

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yr average. Temperatures have remained high, and some scattered showers have brought relief to some areas. The overall soil moisture levels in the state were described as 32% very short, 50% short, 18% adequate, and 0% surplus. Conditions for cotton were reported as 1% very poor, 18% poor, 48% fair, 32% good and 1% excellent. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

## Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm

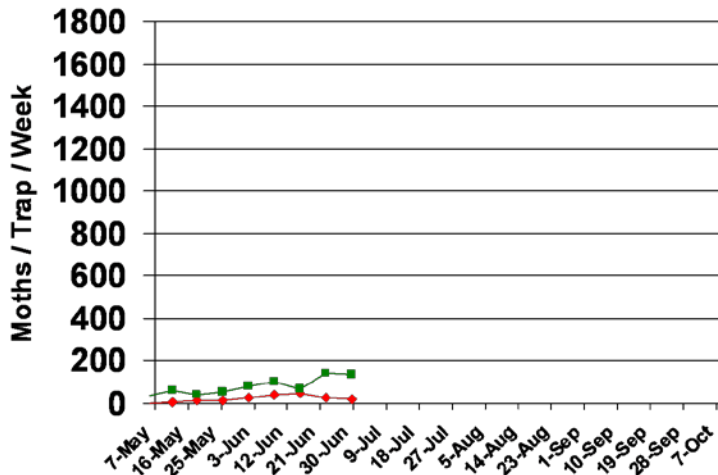


Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC last season and this season are shown below. Numbers are similar so far – how high with they go this year? Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for a limited number of non-Bt-cotton acres. I provide these data as a measure of moth activity in our local area where I use these data as

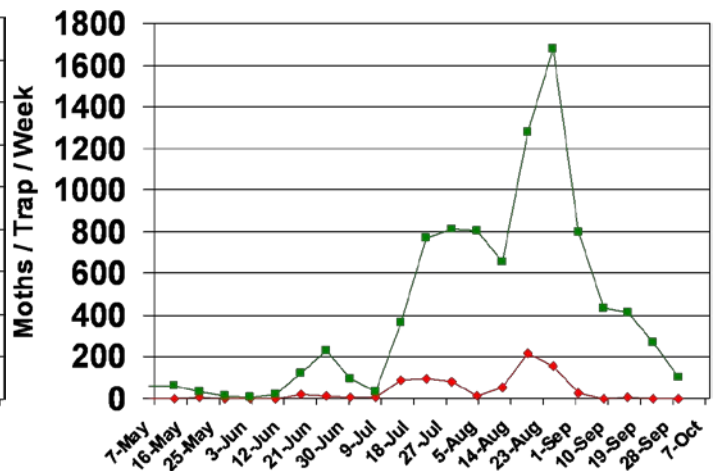
an indication of moth presence and activity near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



**Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2011**



**Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2010**



## Cotton Insect Control Guide

Clemson University Publication IC97 (Cotton Insect Management) has been revised for 2011 and is available free from your local county office. It is also available online at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/ENTOM/IC97.PDF>

## Soybean Situation

As of 27 June 2011, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 94% of soybeans as planted, slightly behind where we were last year at 97% but near the 5-yr average of 93%. About 78% of soybeans have emerged, behind where we were last year at 85% and the 5-yr average of 82%.

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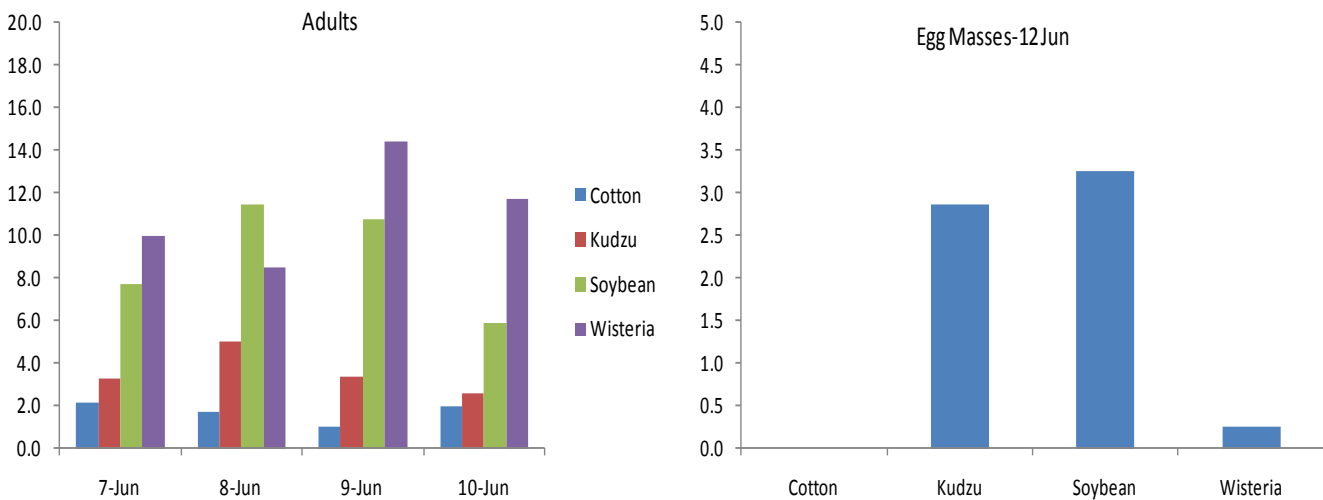
Conditions for soybeans were reported as 6% very poor, 31% poor, 43% fair, 20% good and 0% excellent. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

## Kudzu Bug/Bean Plataspid

The kudzu bug (a.k.a. bean plataspid), *Megacopta cribraria*, continues to spread in SC and the Southeast. We have it confirmed in 45 of 46 counties in SC. ***It has been found on kudzu and/or soybeans in these counties, but it will feed on legumes in general, so it could be on other hosts, and it might be present but yet to be detected in other counties.*** Because we have almost confirmed the presence of this species on a host plant in every county in SC, I am now asking that all wanting to provide information about occurrence of this species inform me if they are observed in any crops, particularly soybeans. ***Please email me with reports from soybeans in all counties not reporting them in the crop previously – see map below.***



Kudzu bugs/bean plataspids are showing up in soybeans right now. Be on the lookout for newly developed adults moving from kudzu/wisteria to soybeans. I sprayed a treatment threshold trial and an insecticide efficacy test yesterday in MGIV soybeans. We should have more information soon about how to manage this species. My graduate student, Mr. Nick Seiter, is working with this insect. He did a small host-preference study in the laboratory, and the results indicated that adults of the species clearly preferred legumes (wisteria, soybean, kudzu) over a non-legume (cotton). Soybeans and kudzu were preferred hosts for deposition of eggs also.



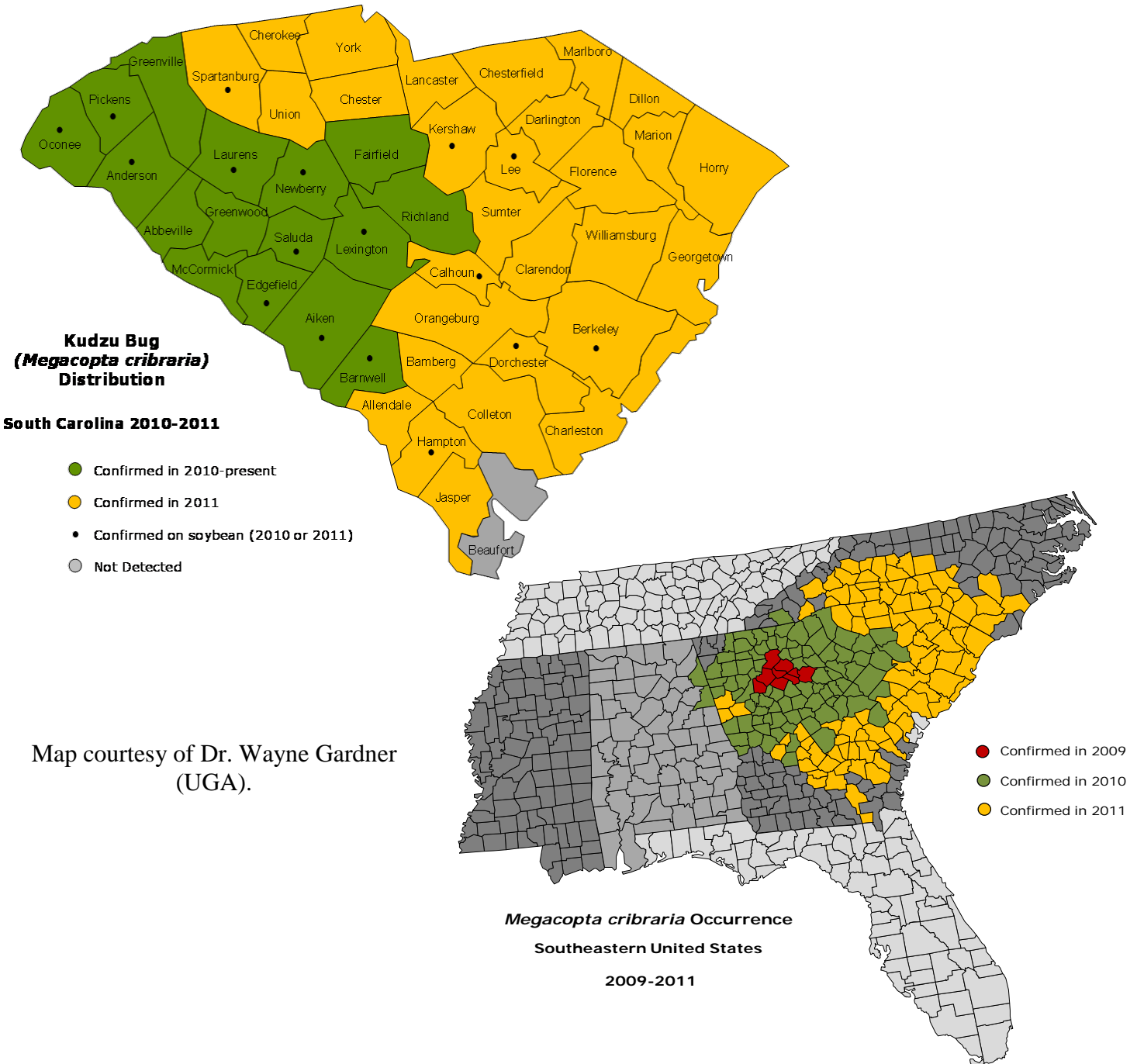
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The latest known distribution of the kudzu bug in SC is represented below. We have just 1 county remaining (Beaufort) from which the insect has not been reported as established on a host (mostly kudzu). We are now documenting the presence of the species on soybeans (counties with dots below). Some were observed in soybeans last year, and many more will be observed on the crop this season. A map of the infested portions of the southeastern USA is also shown.



Map courtesy of Dr. Wayne Gardner (UGA).

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## Soybean Insect Control Guide

Clemson University Publication SL1 (Soybean Insect Management) has been revised for 2011 and is available free from your local county office. It is also available online at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/AGRO/SL1.PDF>

## Cotton and Soybean Acres in SC

Here is where we have been for the last seven years on cotton and soybean acreage and average yields in SC and where USDA-NASS stands on the 2011 estimates. Estimates are positive for both crops.

### **Cotton**

Year	Planted Acres (PA)	% Difference (PA) from Previous Year	Harvested Acres	Yield (lb lint/acre)
2004	215,000	-	214,000	875
2005	266,000	+24%	265,000	743
2006	300,000	+13%	298,000	697
2007	180,000	-40%	158,000	486
2008	135,000	-25%	134,000	881
2009	115,000	-15%	114,000	872
2010	202,000	+76%	201,000	898
2011	270,000?	+34%?	-	-

### **Soybeans**

Year	Planted Acres (PA)	% Difference (PA) from Previous Year	Harvested Acres	Yield (bu/acre)
2004	540,000	-	530,000	27.0
2005	430,000	-20%	420,000	20.5
2006	400,000	-7%	390,000	29.0
2007	460,000	+15%	440,000	18.5
2008	540,000	+17%	530,000	32.0
2009	590,000	+9%	565,000	24.5
2010	465,000	-21%	455,000	23.0
2011	400,000?	-14%?	-	-

## Pest Management Handbook - 2011

Insect control recommendations are also available online in the 2011 Pest Management Handbook at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/index.html>

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**Need More Information?**

Log on to the following web pages to view important cotton management recommendations, data, and historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

For more cotton and soybean information:

<http://www.clemson.edu/public/rec/edisto/research/index.html>

For past 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.  
Associate Professor – Entomologist



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

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