

# SCSL Digital Collections

## Cotton/soybean insect newsletter

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## *Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter*

Volume 7, Issue #12

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

17 August 2012

### **Pest Patrol Hotline**

The information contained herein each week is available via a toll-free hotline. 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 #1 for updates from the Southern Region. Select #3 for the Southeast, and then select #1 to hear my message. Text alerts are also available. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

### **Kudzu Bug Seminar/Field Day**

- 1) **What:** Kudzu bug field day with in-field plot tour, indoor session, question/answer session, lunch, etc.
- 2) **When:** 11 September 2012 (a Tuesday) – free registration at 8:30AM...program starts at 9:00AM
- 3) **Where:** Edisto REC, 64 Research Road, Blackville, SC 29817 (just west of Blackville on Hwy 78)
- 4) **Who:** All are invited, but we particularly want soybean producers and consultants to attend
- 5) **Why:** The invasive pest is important and new, as is the information to be provided by numerous scientists
- 6) **How:** The meeting is sponsored by the United Soybean Board and the South Carolina Soybean Board

**RSVP requested:** Please email me ([green4@clermson.edu](mailto:green4@clermson.edu)) and let me know that you are attending. We need this information to plan lunch and breaks.

Scientists with Clemson, UGA, NCSU, USDA, and industry will be on the program addressing topics such as:

- Discovery and distribution of kudzu bug in USA
- How did the insect get here, and from where did it come?
- Biology of the kudzu bug
- Tour of soybean field plots and field discussions
- Effect of maturity group, planting dates, etc.
- Insecticide efficacy
- Yield component analyses/field cages
- Host plant resistance
- Recommendations for control in soybeans
- Bio-control potential
- Multi-state panel question/answer session
- And more!

### **News from Above the Lakes**

David DeWitt, county agent covering Lee, Kershaw, and Sumter Counties, reported that “as far as most things go this way, it seems to be a quiet season [so far]. The most activity I have seen is the corn earworm moving into soybeans. Stink bugs are fairly calm after some early sprays.”

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*Public Service Activities*

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## News from Below the Lakes

Jonathan Croft, county agent covering Dorchester and Berkeley Counties, reported that he “saw some stink bug damage in some cotton this week and found a lot of small worms in soybeans. The worms were a mix of green cloverworm, velvetbean caterpillar, soybean looper, and corn earworm....also found a few stink bugs in early-planted beans this week but not over threshold.” Tommy Walker, county agent covering Hampton and Jasper Counties, and I have talked much this week about insects in soybeans, particularly developing populations of soybean loopers. In our discussions, we talked about tank mixes with pyrethroids that will control corn earworms, stink bugs, kudzu bugs, other caterpillars, AND also soybean looper (resistant to pyrethroids). Check out our recommendations in the handbook, but you will have to put Belt, Intrepid, Tracer, or Steward in the tank with the pyrethroid to control SBL (there are other options also, but these are our recommendations).

## News from the Piedmont/Upstate

Chris Talley, county agent covering Anderson, Pickens, Spartanburg Counties, reported that he is seeing a “few corn earworms on beans, but below threshold...finding immature kudzu bugs in some fields and only mature in others, fairly inconsistent, but kudzu bugs in all fields.” Jay Crouch, county agent in Newberry, reported about the same for kudzu bugs and that “stink bugs are being treated in cotton...worms still quiet.”

## Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



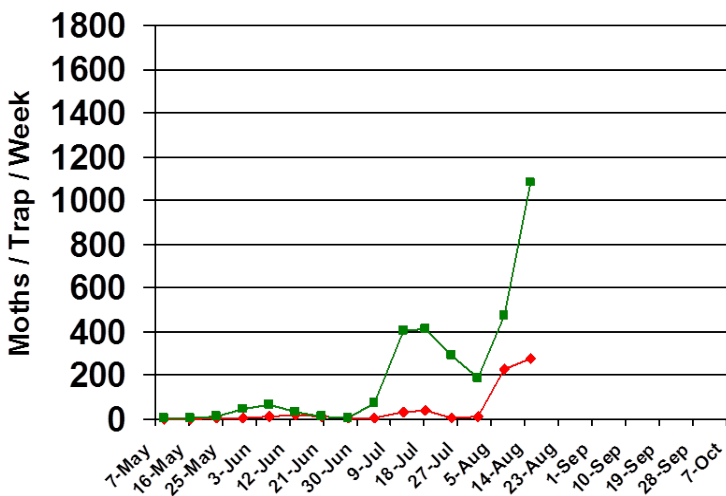
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2011 for reference.

**Tobacco budworm numbers are still up, and bollworm captures more than doubled from last week!**

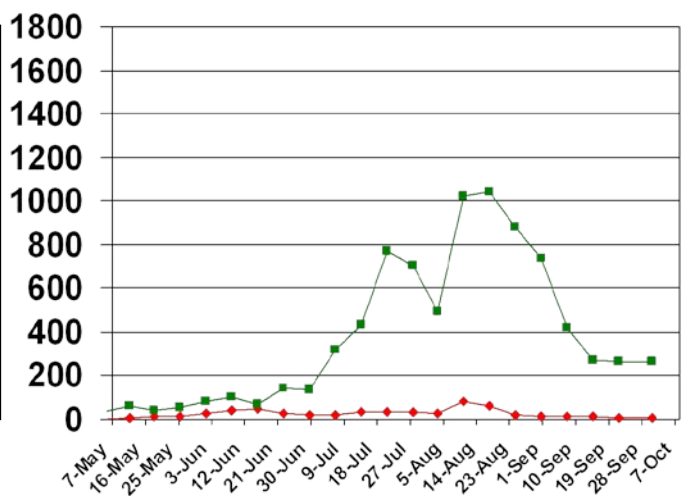
That species continues to be important for our soybean acres and for a very limited number of non-Bt-cotton acres. These data provide a measure of moth activity in our local area near my research plots, indicating the likelihood of caterpillar pressure developing in the field. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2012



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2011



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### **Cotton Situation**

As of 13 August 2012, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had the cotton crop at about 99% squared, compared with where we were last year at 95% and the 5-yr average of 98%. The crop has set bolls on about 82% of our acres, compared with 74% last year and 74% for the 5-yr average. Conditions of the cotton crop were described as 10% excellent, 60% good, 28% fair, 2% poor, and 0% very poor. Soil moisture levels in the state were described for the past week as 1% very short, 17% short, 75% adequate, and 7% surplus. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

### **Current Problems in Cotton**

The major arthropod issues in cotton right now remain stink bugs, spider mites, and bollworm. The rains we are getting will help with spider mites. Bollworm is not really going to be a problem in most areas, particularly in fields that are being treated with a pyrethroid for stink bugs. So, stink bugs are the biggest insect problem right now. Know what week of bloom you are in and refer to our dynamic threshold on boll injury for spray decisions. Also remember that you need to know what species of stink bugs are predominant in each field. Those that have been treated previously with a pyrethroid might have a large population of brown stink bugs. That species can tolerate most pyrethroids alone, so a tank-mix of a pyrethroid plus 4-6 oz of Bidrin or 8 oz of methyl parathion would be a good idea for that species. In fields with brown stink bugs and spider mites, you might get by with an application of bifenthrin alone at the highest rate (6.4 oz/acre), if that AI has not been sprayed recently.

### **Soybean Situation**

As of 13 August 2012, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 65% of soybeans as bloomed, compared with last year at 83% and the 5-yr average of 80%. Pods have been set on about 30% of acres, compared with 29% for last year and 42% for the 5-yr average. Conditions of the soybean crop are described as 5% excellent, 53% good, 33% fair, 8% poor, and 1% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

### **Current Problems in Soybean**

Soybean loopers are building, as are populations of stink bugs and kudzu bugs. All fields are not going to develop the same mix of pests...***you need to have a consultant looking at your soybeans, or do it yourself.*** Species identification is critical! Those identifications will determine what insecticides need to be applied when thresholds are met. Soybeans are worth a lot these days, right?

### **Kudzu Bug/Bean Plataspid**

Kudzu bugs are in every soybean field in South Carolina to some degree. Some fields have yet to reach levels requiring control, and some areas have been inundated with kudzu bugs all season. Right now, populations are diluted across many acres, but, as we see early-maturing varieties senesce, we will very likely see adult kudzu bugs concentrate in later planted soybeans.

I distributed some tentative treatment thresholds and sampling plans (Table 1) for kudzu bugs last week. Those continue to be developed and refined. We are confident that the immature stage is very important, but we will

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have to pay attention to the adults that build to large numbers and infest fields near the end of the season. Adults can be quite numerous migrating into fields late in the season.

Table 1. Tentative sampling methods and treatment thresholds for kudzu bugs in soybeans.

Sampling Method	Minimum Observations	Threshold
Sweep net (15-inch diameter)	At least ten 10-sweep samples representing entire field*	1 nymph/sweep
Canopy observation (visual)	At least ten observation spots representing entire field*	Nymphs easily found on petioles, main stems, or leaves

\*Samples should be taken from multiple stops across the field and not just field borders

A 12-minute presentation on the kudzu bug is open access until 31 October at the link below. A shorter presentation is open access permanently courtesy of the United Soybean Board. View these at: <http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/edcenter/seminars/soybean/kudzu>.

Visit our kudzu bug webpage for the latest information on this invasive pest: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/kudzubugs/index.html>

**Pest Management Handbook - 2012**

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2012 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/index.html>

**Need More Information?**

For more Extension information: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/>

For historical cotton/soybean insect 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.  
Professor – Entomologist