



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue #4

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

25 May 2017

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.



News from Around the State

Insect news is limited right now, as fields are soaked about everywhere. It has rained off and on since Sunday with accumulated amounts of rainfall exceeding several inches. The wet fields will prevent adequate scouting for insect issues, so, when it dries enough to get to and around fields, go look at your fields. Much can happen in a few days of not putting eyes on each field. **Jay Crouch**, county agent in Newberry County, reported that “things are fairly quiet in my counties. We’ve treated some cotton for thrips, and grasshoppers are still at fairly high numbers in spots.” **Charles Davis**, county agent in Calhoun County, reported (Tuesday) that the rain is hindering efforts to look at the crops and that his “...limited observations are that thrips are still the main culprit with injury in the moderate to slight range on peanuts. Most of our cotton is just struggling to get out of the ground so I haven’t had much chance to look at most of it. What I have seen looks to have some damage but nothing terrible at this time. But then again, I haven’t had a chance to look at too many fields. Saw a lot of grasshoppers early last week but haven’t heard of any complaints yet.” Other agents are reporting that things are quiet and that cotton and soybeans are still coming up or still in the bag. **Jonathan Croft**, county agent in Orangeburg County, reported that he has “not been in many fields this week with all of the rain. However, where I have been I have seen some thrips hitting seedling cotton and saw a lot feeding damage from our four legged enemies in cotton this week.” **Justin Ballew**, county agent covering Marion and Dillon Counties, reported that cotton is “getting hammered by thrips right now...seem to be significantly worse this year than last. Even the fields that have a heavy cover crop residue are showing thrips damage. Last year those fields seemed like they had a leg up on the bare ground fields.”



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Public Service Activities

The mention of any commercial product in this publication does not imply its endorsement by Clemson University over other products not named, nor does the omission imply that they are not satisfactory.

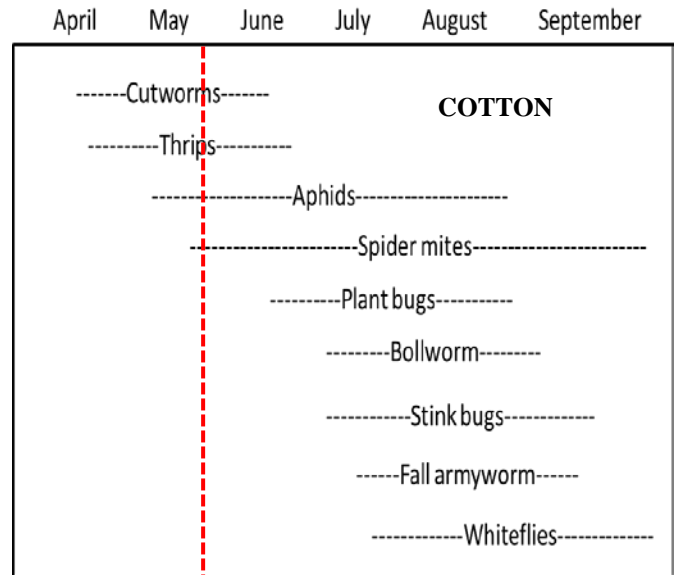


Cotton Situation

As of 21 May 2017, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 64% of the crop has been planted, compared with 52% the previous week, 61% at this time last year, and 63% for the 5-year average. The condition of the crop was described as 1% excellent, 43% good, 56% fair, 0% poor, and 0% very poor.

Cotton Insects

The primary insect issue in cotton remains thrips, but the recent heavy rains will physically remove some of those and help the plants outgrow some of the injury. So, we are in pretty good shape right now regarding insect activity (I am seeing some very early aphid populations, so keep an eye out for aphids, particularly after all of this rain). If you are still planting (and some of you need to plant still), take a quick look at the Thrips Infestation Predictor (TIP) tool to ensure that your field and planting date will be forecasted in the reduced risk zone on the generated charts. Also, consider planting varieties that mature earlier if you get into June before planting. We have observed good yields from those early maturing varieties planted in June. Here is the link to the TIP for cotton: <http://climate.ncsu.edu/cottonthripsrisk/>



Cotton at 4 true leaves with some old thrips injury and growing population of aphids. Notice the cupping of the leaf margins downward. Aphids are under the new leaves. This cotton was sprayed with acephate at 1-2 leaves, and that likely contributed to the early aphids. I would watch this cotton and see what the rains do to the aphids and plant growth. It will very likely not need treatment for the aphids, but only time will tell.

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Soybean Situation

As of 21 May 2017, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 32% of our soybean crop has been planted, compared with 28% the previous week, 27% at this time last year, and 37% for the 5-year average. About 16% of the crop has emerged, compared with 4% the previous week, 12% at this time last year, and 20% for the 5-year average. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

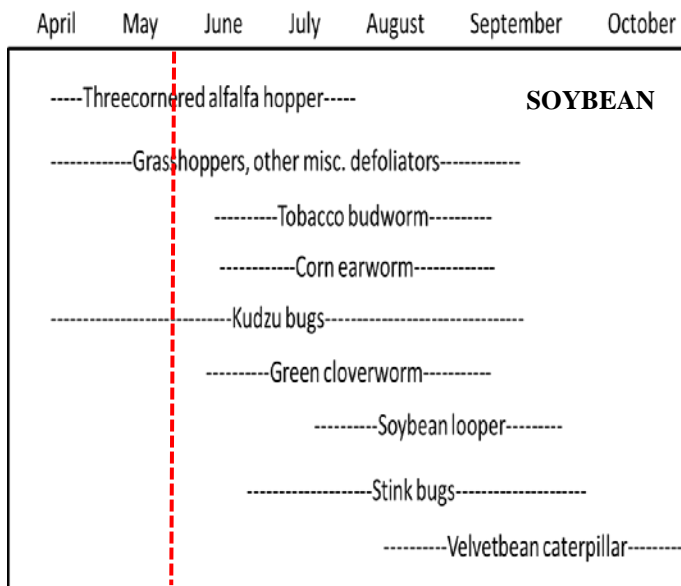
Soybean Insects

Again this week, we are still early into planting for soybeans, so there are few issues with insects at this point. We still have some grasshopper issues in spots, so watch out for those. Deer continue to be a problem.

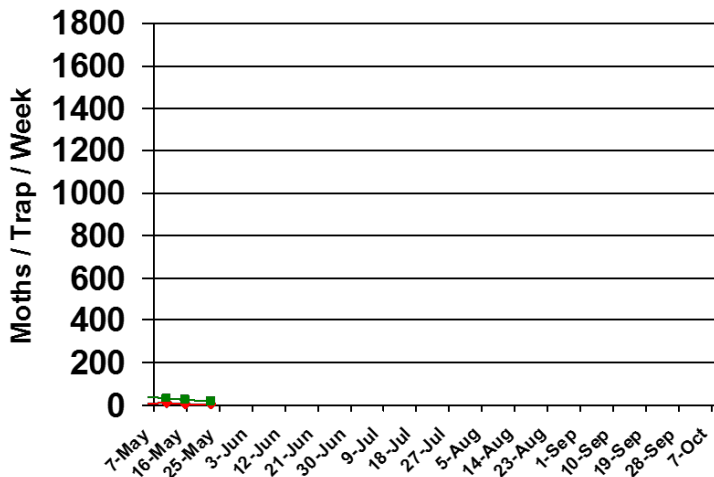
Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



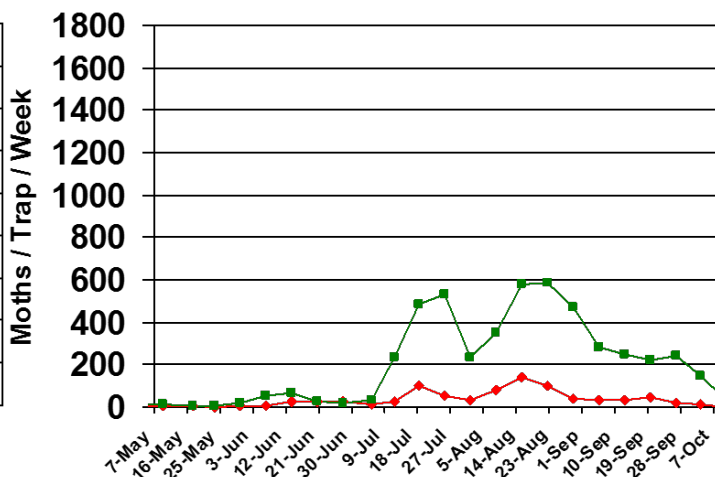
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2016 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I provide these data as a measure of moth presence and activity in our local area near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2017



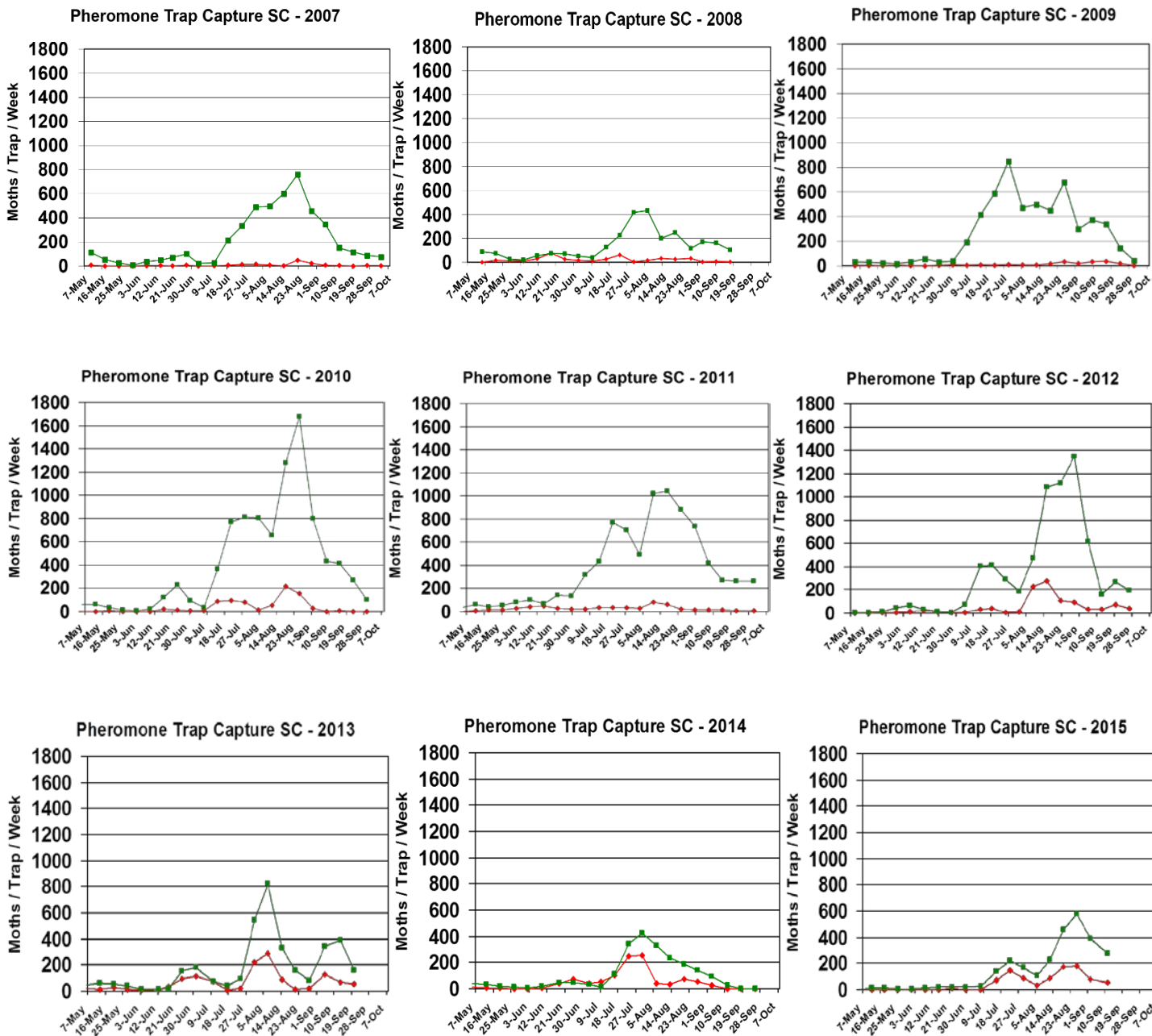
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2016



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Trap data from 2007-2015 are shown below for reference to other years of trapping data from EREC:



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Pest Management Handbook – 2017

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2017 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at: <http://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:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/cotton1/newsletters.html>

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.
Professor of Entomology



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