



## Cotton Insect Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue #10

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

12 July 2007

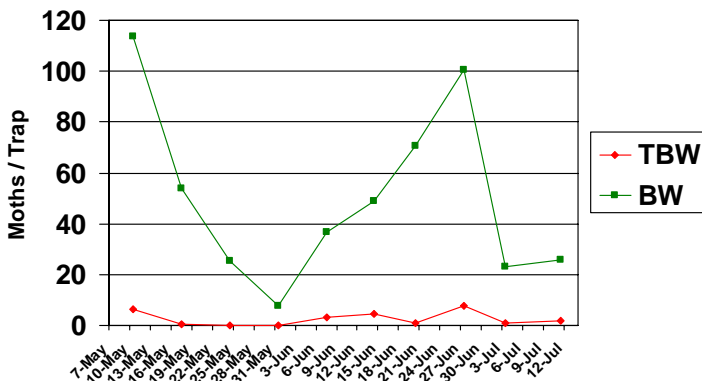
### Crop Situation

The USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 50% squaring for 8 July 2007, behind the 5-yr average of 64%. As of the same date, 1% of the crop is setting bolls, behind the 5-yr average of 11%. About 5% of the state's cotton crop was reported to be in excellent condition. The remainder was reported as 50% good, 36% fair, 8% poor, and 1% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

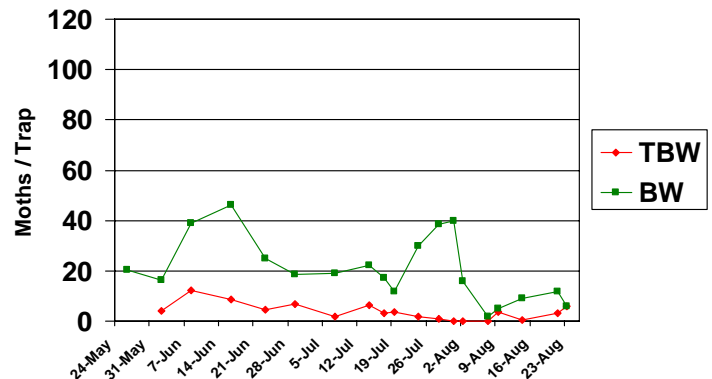
### Tobacco Budworm & Bollworm

Captures of adult tobacco budworm and bollworm in pheromone traps at EREC for this season and last season are pictured below. We detected slight increases in tobacco budworm and bollworm moth captures this past week. We are tracking about where we were last year this time. I changed the scale on the 2006 chart to demonstrate how much larger our bollworm peak during the end of June 2007 was in comparison with last year. I am not seeing many bollworm eggs in cotton right now, and many that I have spoken with are providing the same observations. Things are quiet right now, but, as you know, they can change overnight with respect to moth flights. I would expect that we will see oviposition from female bollworm moths pick up next week in cotton. We could see sustained pressure from bollworm after that.

Pheromone Trap Capture (EREC - 2007)



Pheromone Trap Capture (EREC - 2006)



### News from Above the Lakes

No news to report this week. This is your turn for input – email your comments and observations to me.

### News from Below the Lakes

Charles Davis in Calhoun County reported late last week that “after a lull in aphid buildup, I am definitely beginning to see more in the fields. I have sent off samples to Arkansas today for testing. All else seems quiet.

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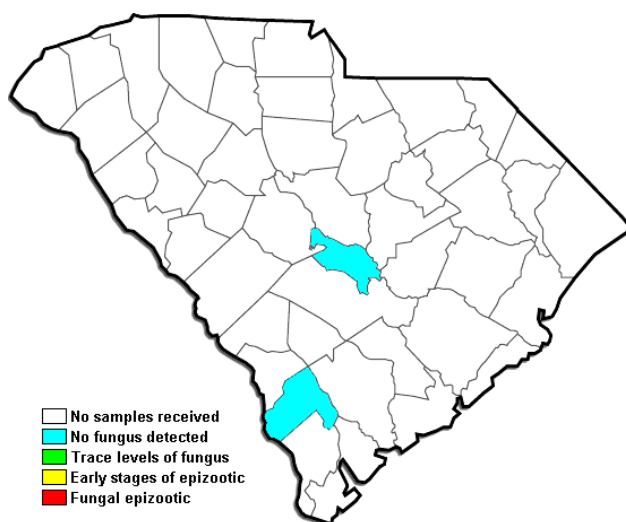
Local cotton scouts report some brown stinkbugs, levels similar to what we saw on Monday in my plots. Other than cotton beginning to bloom, all is quiet.”

### Aphids

You do not have to look very long in fields to find aphids. In fact, they are covering plants in some places. It remains my opinion that populations of aphids seldom need treatment with insecticides in cotton, but occasionally severe outbreaks do occur, and treatment is justified. The naturally-occurring fungus that attacks high populations of aphids was delayed last year, and problems with aphids persisted. In my opinion, problems with aphids are primarily that they hinder scouts/consultants from doing their job in looking for other pests that are a real threat to the crop. Finding bollworm eggs and larvae can be very difficult and bothersome when the plants are covered in aphids. Sampling for bugs and simply walking through the field can be inconvenient with aphids and honeydew everywhere. Thankfully, the aphid fungus routinely cleans fields within a week or so after the epizootic begins.

Last year would have been an excellent year to have monitored the incidence of fungus in aphids. Please contact the Cotton Aphid Fungus Sampling Service in Arkansas if you are interested in sending in field samples to determine how fungal epizootics are proceeding this year. Growers and other consultants in your area can participate in this FREE service. If you are interested in the timeline for infection of aphids with the fungus and when they might be naturally removed from your fields, I encourage you to participate. Their email address is: [aphid@cavern.uark.edu](mailto:aphid@cavern.uark.edu). Let them know that you are interested in the free service, and provide your mailing address and fax number. If you are not familiar with it, it basically involves pulling leaves with aphids from fields you would like to know the level of aphid fungus, putting them in the provided vials of alcohol, and putting the provided postage-paid envelope in the mail. You get your results within a couple of days. That is basically it, but check out their website, if you would like more details: [www.uark.edu/misc/aphid](http://www.uark.edu/misc/aphid)

Below is where we stand right now with the aphid fungus. Samples sent it from Hampton and Calhoun Counties have not yet shown signs of the fungus.



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### **Printed Cotton Insect Recommendations**

Copies of “Cotton Insect Management” (IC 97) recommendations are available at your local county office. You can visit the following website for an electronic version of the recommendations:

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

### **Need More Information?**

Log on to the following webpages to view important cotton management recommendations, data, and historical cotton insect newsletters:

<http://www.clemson.edu/edisto/cotton/cotton.htm>

<http://www.clemson.edu/scg/ipm/cotton.html>

Sincerely,

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