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Cotton/soybean insect newsletter

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Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue #9

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

22 July 2010

Pest Alert!!!

See the section below under soybean called 'Pest Alert: Bean Plataspid' for updated information about an invasive species now on soybeans in our state.

Pest Patrol Hotline

There is a toll-free hotline for quick updates on insect problems. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. Simply call the free number **(877) 285-8525** and select the messages you would like to hear (I am #7 on the listing of specialists). The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta Crop Science.

News from Above the Lakes

Trish DeHond, county agent covering Darlington, Dillon, and Marlboro Counties, reported that she has not found any bean plataspids in the Pee Dee region. Another report from above the lakes included that they are finding 1-2-day-old worms in squares and terminals and 0.25 inch worms in 'candles' of Bollgard, Bollgard II, and WideStrike cotton. These fields were planted late (late May), are in the first couple of weeks of bloom, have dime sized bolls, and are getting first PGR application. Although it is a little early for a stink bug application, they will be sprayed with an insecticide because of the pressure from bollworm. Older cotton 'bolling up' has had at least one overspray for stink bugs and appears in good shape where rain has occurred. Aphid fungus was observed in one field in Horry County.

News from Below the Lakes

My crew found a bean plataspid in soybeans during our weekly research efforts in a producer field near Elko, SC (Barnwell County), this week. See "Pest Alert: Bean Plataspid" for updated information about this pest.

Cotton Situation

As of 19 July 2010, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 84% of the crop as squaring, just ahead of where we were last year at 83% and the 5-yr average of 78%. About 25% of the crop has set bolls, also ahead of 18% for last year and 21% for the 5-yr average. Conditions were described as 6% excellent, 49% good, 36% fair, 8% poor, and 1% very poor for the crop. Overall moisture levels in the state were described as 11% very short, 35% short, 44% adequate, and 10% surplus. Scattered rains have improved the moisture situation in those areas fortunate enough to receive rain. **NOW IS THE TIME TO "SCOUT HARD" AND PROTECT COTTON FROM STINK BUGS AND ESCAPED BOLLWORM! PRESSURE IS HIGH FROM BOLLWORM AND STINK BUGS ACROSS THE STATE!**

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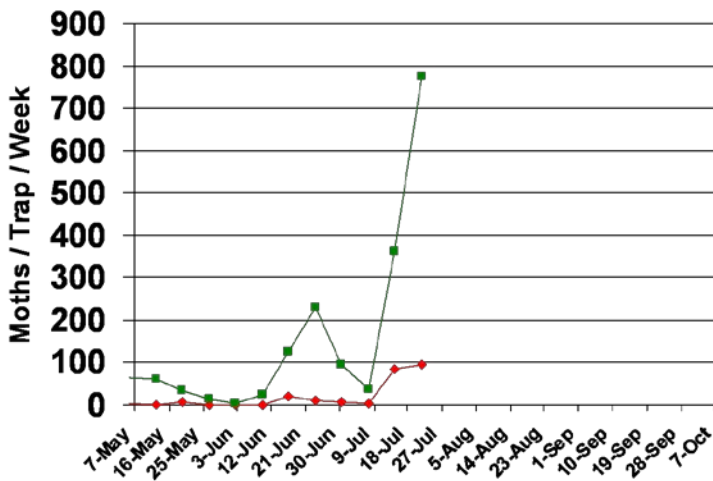
Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



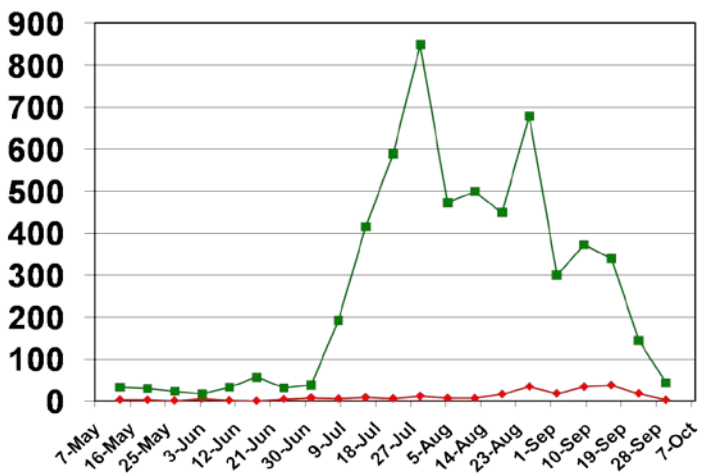
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season and last season are presented. The scales on the charts are the same to illustrate where we are compared with last year. Our trap numbers were high this past week – we caught almost 8,000 moths! Accordingly, our egg and worm counts are up this week. Under this intense pressure, all cotton (regardless of Bt technology) will benefit from an application of insecticide. The pressure is just too much, and some of the caterpillars will make it through the technology. If you are flushing numerous moths and seeing multiple eggs per plant, you are probably experiencing pressure rivaling our bollworm flight at EREC. Because the bollworm continues to be an important pest of cotton and soybean, we will continue to monitor the progress of this pest.



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2010



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2009



Cotton Insect Control Guide

Clemson University Publication IC97 (Cotton Insect Management) has been revised for 2010 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

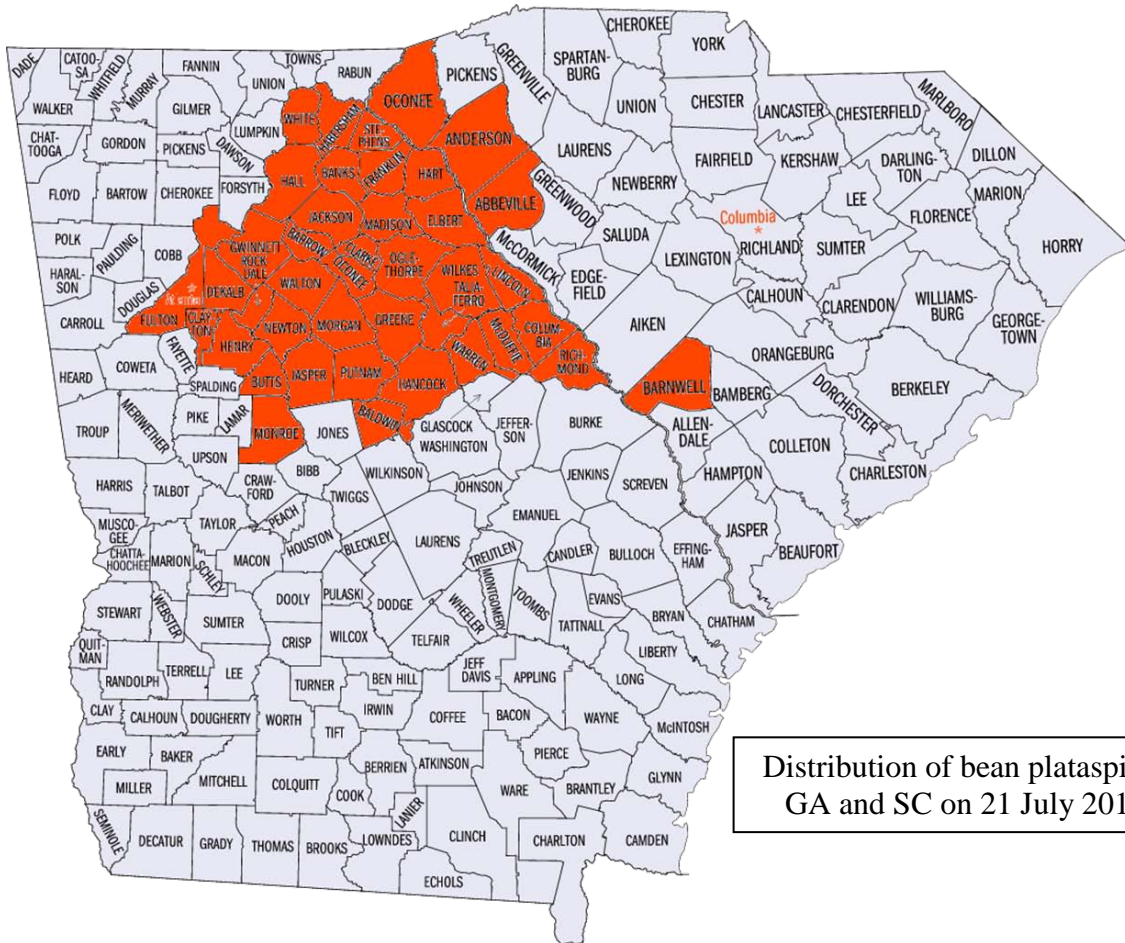
As of 19 July 2010, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 99% of soybeans emerged, about equal to where we were last year at 100% and the 5-yr average of 98%. About 30% of soybeans have bloomed, ahead of last year's 14% and the 5-yr average of 21%. About 9% of the crop has set pods, ahead of where we were last year at 3% and the 5-yr average of 5%. Conditions were described as 4% excellent, 43% good, 38% fair, 14% poor, and 1% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

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Pest Alert: Bean Plataspid!

I have been reporting about an invasive species from the Far East (China, India, Japan, etc.) that has been found in Georgia and South Carolina on kudzu and soybeans. The insect, called the bean plataspid, *Megacopta cribraria*, is quickly spreading to other areas. **The bean plataspid has been confirmed in Oconee, Anderson, Abbeville, and Barnwell Counties in SC (see map below), 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.** We need your help in documenting where this pest is and is not. If you are out and about and want to check patches of kudzu or soybean fields, please take GPS coordinates and note information about the presence or absence of these bugs in your area. Digital pictures or specimens preserved in alcohol are important documentation to get from infested areas. Please email that information to me. Be very careful when leaving an infested area because these insects can be transported very easily on your clothing and get into your vehicle. We want to minimize its spread – let's not help these insects by unknowingly taking them to non-infested areas. We will intensify our survey efforts next week in an attempt to document whether or not the plataspid is in Aiken, Edgefield, and McCormick Counties. I suspect that it is, and it will likely be detected in counties not on the GA/SC border.

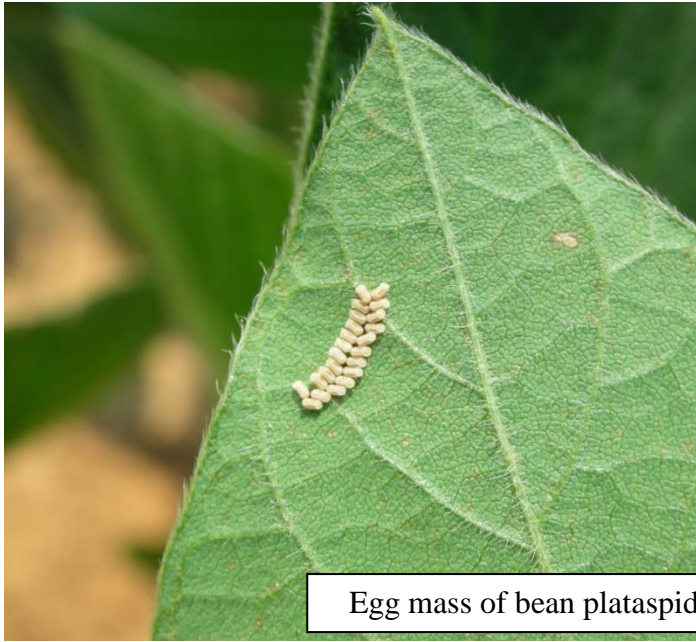


Distribution of bean plataspid in GA and SC on 21 July 2010.

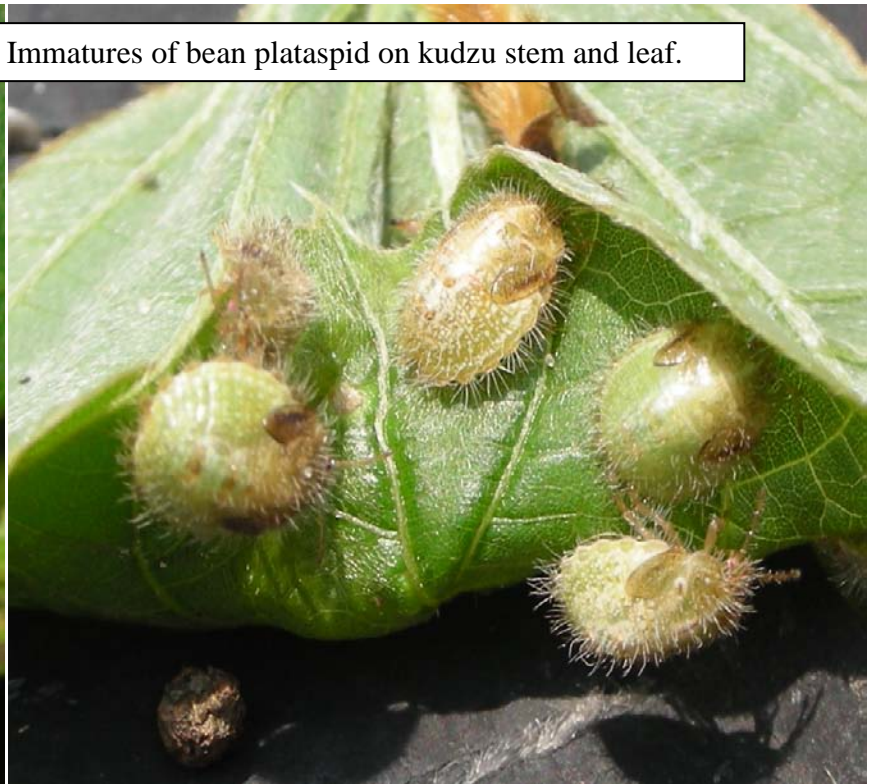
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Egg mass of bean plataspid and female depositing eggs.



Immatures of bean plataspid on kudzu stem and leaf.

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Adult bean plataspids on soybean and volunteer corn plant.

Plataspids and US dime on soybean leaf, below, and close-up of bean plataspid adult, right, found on soybean in Barnwell County, SC.



Most of the photos above are from last week, but they represent the insect well. Shown are the eggs and immature stages of the bean plataspid and pictures of it resting on soybean and a volunteer corn plant in a soybean field. Insecticide efficacy numbers out of Georgia indicate that pyrethroids and organophosphates labeled for use in soybeans offer good control, with the pyrethroids offering slightly more residual control. Quick re-infestation of fields could be a concern. However, we still do not know what economic losses might be incurred from this pest and continue to learn about it. Updates will be provided weekly in the newsletter.

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Soybean Insect Control Guide

Clemson University Publication SL1 (Soybean Insect Management) has been revised for 2010 and is available free from your local county office. It is also available online at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/PAGES/AGRO/SL1.pdf>

Pest Management Handbook - 2010

Insect control recommendations are also available online in the 2010 Pest Management Handbook at:

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

Need More Information?

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.

Associate Professor – Entomologist



Visit our website at:

<http://www.clemson.edu>

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