



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 16, Issue #20 Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC 15 September 2021

Pest Patrol Alerts

The information contained herein each issue is available via text alerts that direct users to online recordings. I will update the short message often 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](https://twitter.com/bugdocisin) on Twitter.



News from Around the State

Jonathan Croft, county agent in Orangeburg County, stated that he "checked one later planted cotton field yesterday. Stink bug damage was less than 10%. Areolate mildew was evident in a lot of the field but low in the canopy. The beans I looked at today had a few adult kudzu bugs that had returned since the last insecticide treatment a couple weeks ago and a very low number of soybean loopers." **Rich Byrd**, county agent in Darlington County, reported that he has "seen some stink bug and grasshopper damage [in soybeans] but nothing too alarming." **Jay Crouch**, county agent in Newberry County, reported "most fungicide/insecticide sprays in beans are finishing up this week, cotton is quietly holding it's own here."

Upcoming Field Day (CANCELED – NO FIELD DAY TOMORROW)

After much discussion and careful consideration for the health and wellbeing of the public, Clemson University has decided to cancel the 2021 Edisto REC Peanut, Horticulture, and Agronomic Crop Field Day planned for September 16th. We look forward to resuming this field day in 2022. We will develop a publication which will include the information that was to be presented at this Field Day. You will receive a follow up notification when that publication is ready for viewing and a link to access it. Thank you for your continued interest and support of the programs at Edisto REC.

Cotton Situation

As of 12 September 2021, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 36% of bolls are opening, compared with 17% last week, 18% at this time last year, and 42% for the 5-year average. The conditions of the crop were 19% excellent, 64% good, 17% fair, 0% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

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Public Service Activities

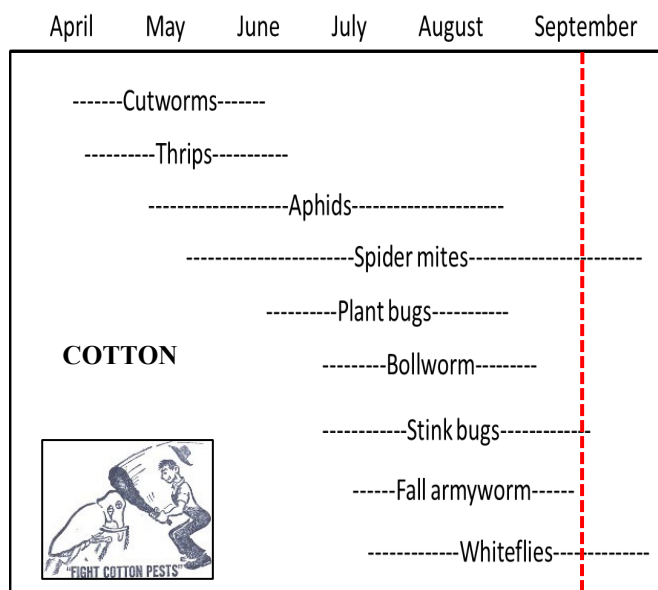
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Cotton Insects

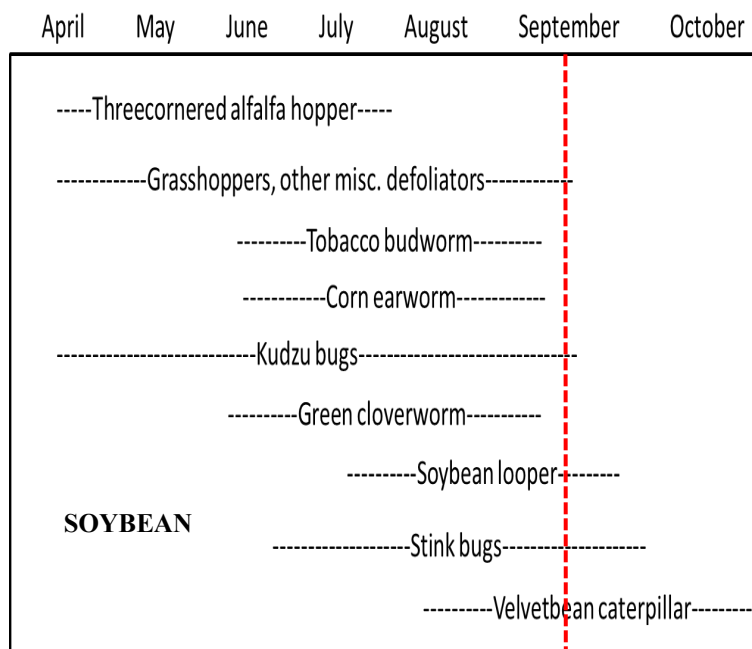
Captures of bollworm moths in my pheromone traps are going down this week, and we are done with bollworm in cotton. Only really late-planted non-Bt or two-gene Bt cotton would be susceptible at this point. The only palatable parts left are for hungry boll-feeding bugs, such as stink bugs and leaffooted bugs, and it is getting slim for them also.

Stink bugs are still an issue, but primarily in late-planted fields that have not been sprayed with an insecticide in a couple of weeks. Those might need to be checked one last time for stink bugs. Immature stink bugs remaining on plants have no choice. They do not have fully developed wings, so they must eat and complete development on the crop. Many adults are flying off to soybeans now and leaving behind their offspring in cotton. We had moderate-to-high pressure from multiple species of stink bugs this season. I have recently observed brown stink bug, green stink bug, southern green stink bug, brown marmorated stink bug, and other species. Producers following the dynamic boll-injury threshold should have done a good job in controlling these species and preserving yield. Despite any issues with insects this season, I think the cotton crop is going to be a great one, and prices are good right now.



Soybean Situation

As of 12 September 2021, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 95% of the crop has bloomed, compared with 93% the previous week, 93% at this time last year, and 97% for the 5-year average. About 73% of the crop is setting pods, compared with 68% the previous week, 71% at this time last year, and 77% for the 5-year average. About 4% of the crop is dropping leaves, compared with 2% the previous week, 3% at this time last year, and 4% for the 5-year average. The conditions of the crop were 15% excellent, 76% good, 9% fair, 0% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.



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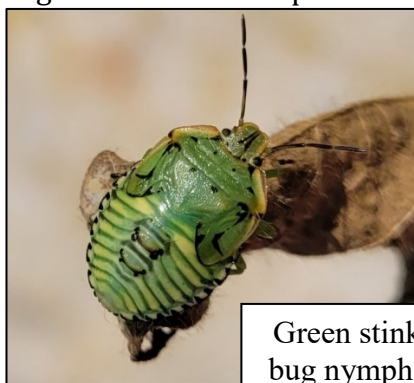
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Soybean Insects

The defoliating complex of caterpillars still includes soybean looper, velvetbean caterpillar, green cloverworm, and a few other species. There are also still plenty of grasshoppers eating leaves as well. Keep these defoliating insects under threshold to R7. Stink bugs should be the main concern, as they are the number one insect pest complex of soybeans in the Southeast. Stink bugs can be very numerous in soybeans right now, especially if it has been a couple of weeks since the last application of a broad-spectrum insecticide. I have some untreated soybeans at R6+ right now, and multiple species of hemipterans remain out of control in the test area. The species include reproducing populations of southern green stink bug, brown marmorated stink bug, redbanded stink bugs, kudzu bugs, and other true bugs. Here are a few photos of what I saw yesterday.



Green stink bug nymphs



Brown marmorated stink bug nymphs



Brown stink bug nymphs



Redbanded stink bugs (adult + nymphs)



Southern green stink bug nymph



Spider preying on southern green stink bug nymph

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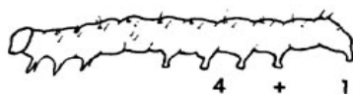
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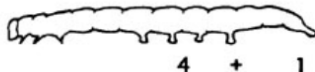
As moth activity increases, deposited eggs will yield caterpillar pests on soybeans. It is good skill to be able to identify adult moths flying around in fields. Use this chart to study moth and caterpillar identification.



FIELD KEY TO COMMON SOYBEAN CATERpillARS



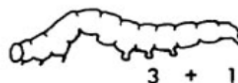
CORN EARWORM
4 + 1 pair prolegs
Curls up in hand
Black "warts" on body



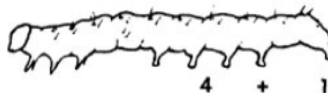
VELVETBEAN CATERPILLAR
4 + 1 pair prolegs
Very active when handled



SOYBEAN LOOPER
2 + 1 pair prolegs
Fatter at tail end
Looping movement



GREEN CLOVERWORM
3 + 1 pair prolegs
Not fatter at tail end
Looping movement



TOBACCO BUDWORM
4 + 1 pair prolegs
Curls up in hand
Black "warts" on body



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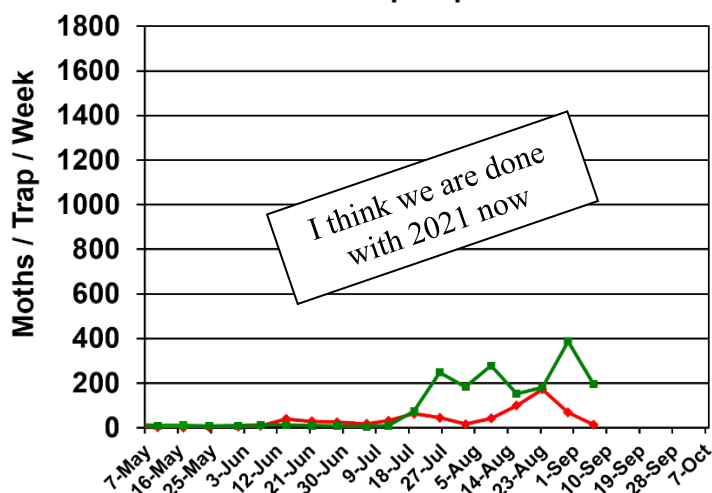
Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



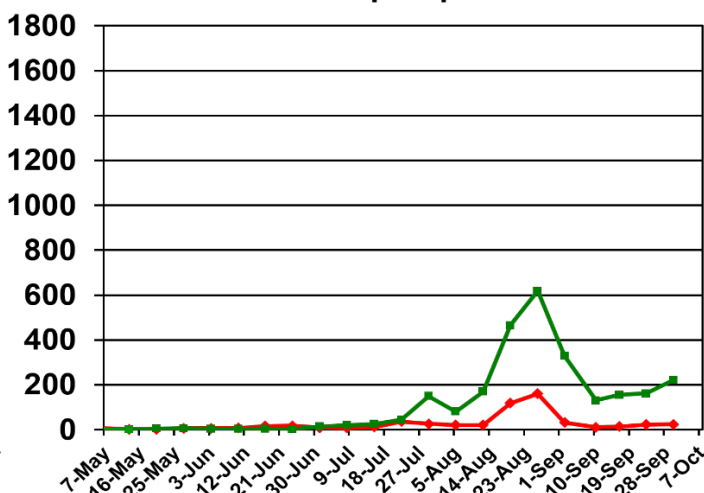
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2007-2020 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I provide these data as a measure of moth presence and activity in our local area near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state but are useful for general trends.



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2021

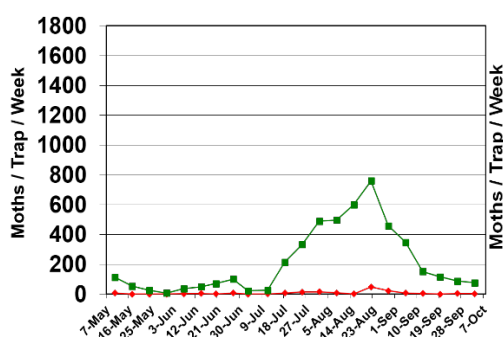


Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2020

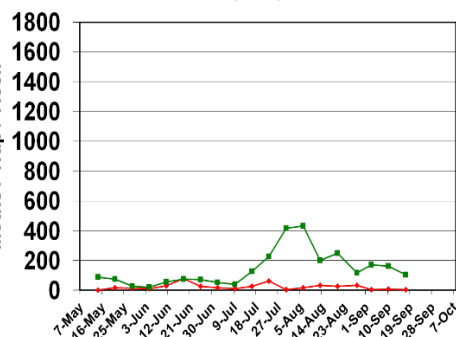


Trap data from 2007-2019 are shown below for reference to other years of trapping data from EREC:

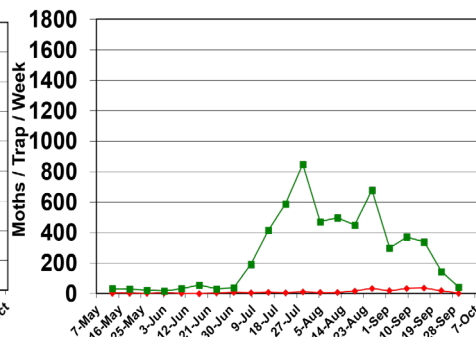
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2007



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2008



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2009



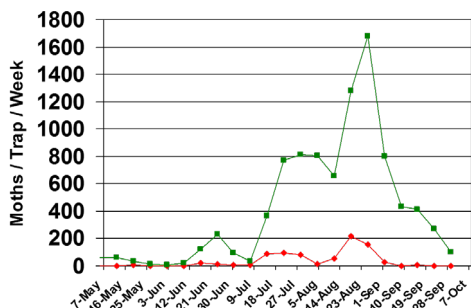
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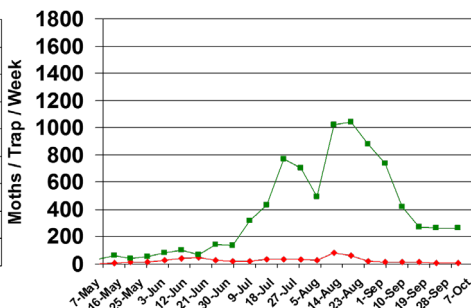
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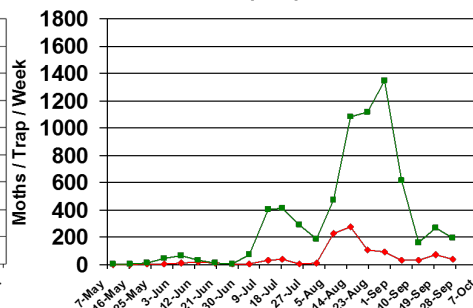
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2010



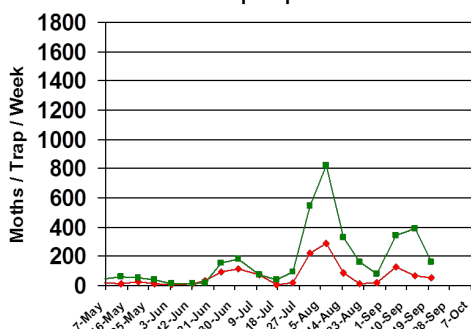
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2011



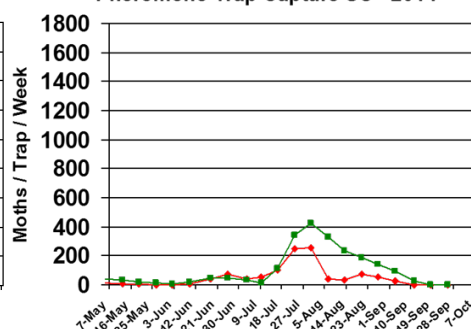
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2012



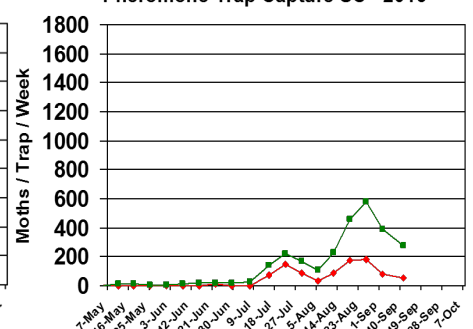
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2013



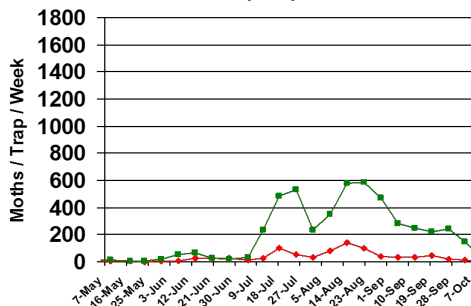
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2014



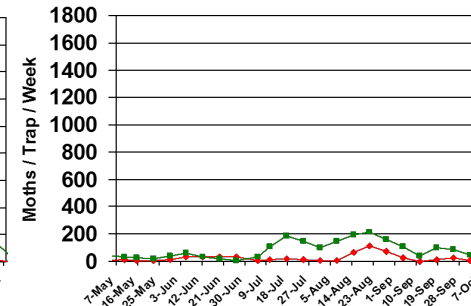
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2015



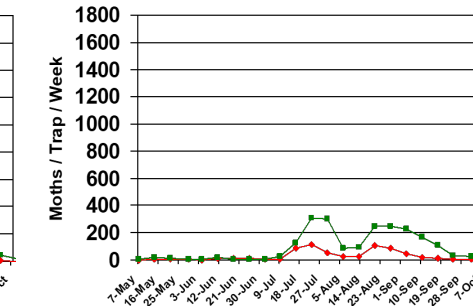
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2016



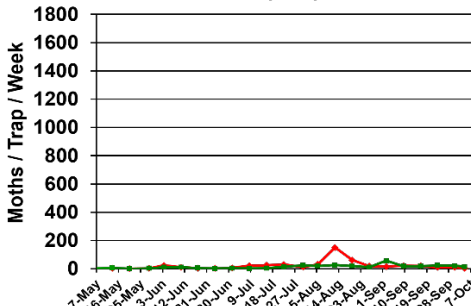
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2017



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2018



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2019



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Pest Management Handbook – 2021

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2021 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at:

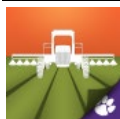
<https://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/pest%20management%20handbook.html>

South Carolina Crops Blog

The SC Crops Blog contains content about production of major row crops at the following link, if you want more information: <https://blogs.clemson.edu/sccrops/>

Archived issues of the Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter can be viewed at a convenient link on the SCCrops page. Contact **Dr. Michael Plumblee**, if you have any questions about the blog.

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:

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

Sincerely,

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



Visit our website at:
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