



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue #11

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

5 August 2010

Field Day at Edisto

This is a reminder that the first Thursday in September marks the date for the annual field day at the Edisto Research and Education Center near Blackville, SC. There will be various tours at the field day, including our row-crop tour. I will provide more information in the weeks to follow, but please put the date on your calendar, and plan to attend.

EDISTO FALL FIELD DAY – 2 September 2010 (First Thursday in September)

Pest Alert!!!

See the section below under soybean called ‘Pest Alert: Bean Plataspid/Kudzu Bug’ for updated information about an invasive species spreading 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. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta Crop Science.

News from Above the Lakes

A report from the Pee Dee Region – “I have been getting quite a few calls from SE North Carolina into lower SC regarding escaped earworms after pyrethroid applications. (Got a call today about escaped leps (CEW) in soybeans after 1/50 rate of Karate (Near the lakes). They suspect pyrethroid resistance.) My scouting above the lakes today [Tuesday], indicated heavy earworm counts and yellow striped armyworms (approx 3 CEW to one Yellow striped armyworm). Up until this week, only a few scattered reports of loopers in soybeans. I have had calls from lower SC indicating soybean loopers in areas. Good coverage is essential for all treatments whether by ground or air.”

News from Below the Lakes

Charles Davis, county agent covering Calhoun and Orangeburg Counties, reported this week that he has checked soybeans and kudzu in his counties for the bean plataspid/kudzu bug without finding any. See ‘Pest Alert: Bean Plataspid/Kudzu Bug’ for updated information about this pest.

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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 2 August 2010, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 95% of the crop as squared, about equal to where we were last year at 96% and the 5-yr average of 93%. About 51% of the crop has set bolls, about equal to 52% for last year and 49% for the 5-yr average. Conditions were described as 11% excellent, 58% good, 26% fair, 5% poor, and 0% very poor for the crop. After the widespread rains recently, the overall moisture levels in the state improved and were described as 7% very short, 32% short, 59% adequate, and 2% surplus. **CONTINUE TO SCOUT AND PROTECT COTTON FROM STINK BUGS AND ESCAPED BOLLWORM USING TREATMENT THRESHOLDS ESTABLISHED AND RECOMMENDED BY CLEMSON AT: <http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/PAGES/ENTOM/IC97.pdf>**

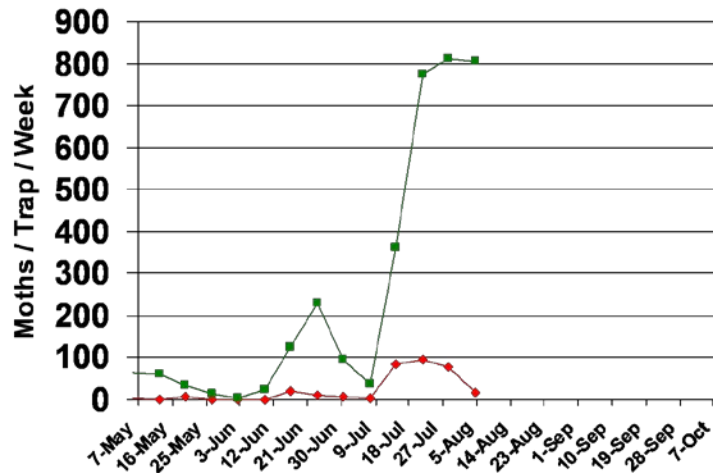
Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



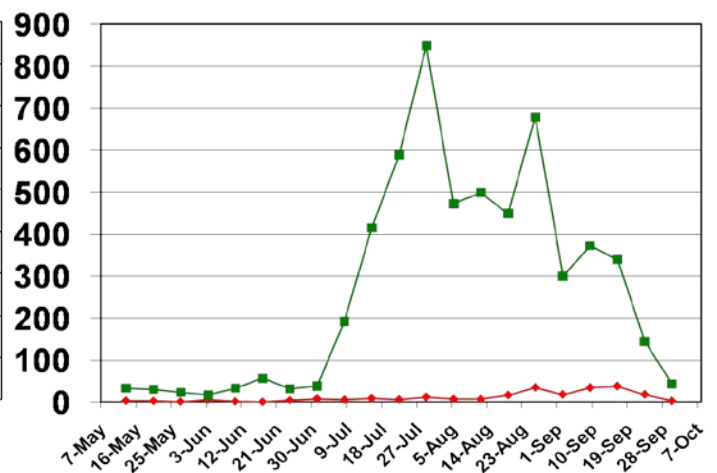
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season and last season are presented. The scales on the charts are the same to illustrate where we are compared with last year. Our trap numbers were high again this week – we caught another 8,000+ BW moths! Our egg counts are declining, but worm counts remain up this week. Under this intense pressure, all cotton (regardless of Bt technology) is susceptible to injury from bollworm. Because the bollworm continues to be an important pest of cotton and soybean, we will continue to monitor the progress of this pest. See [“Pyrethroids Working Well on Corn Earworm/Bollworm?”](#)



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>

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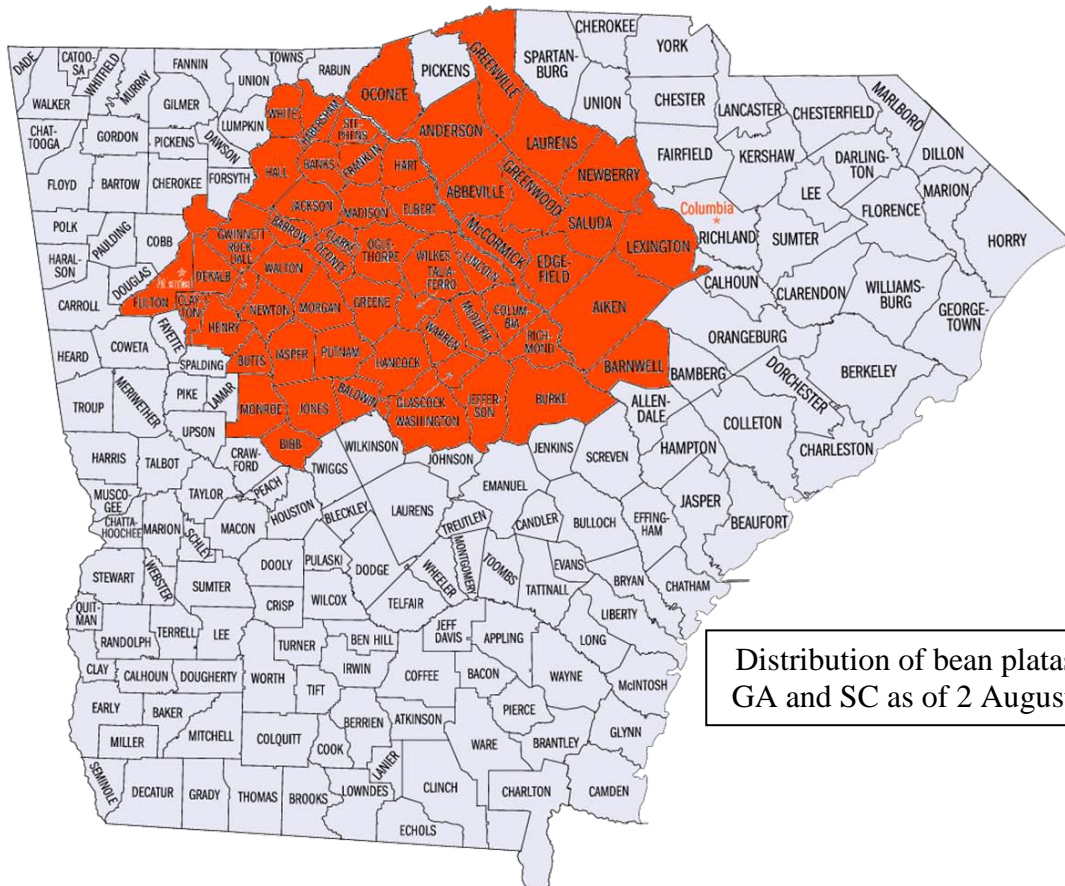


Soybean Situation

As of 2 August 2010, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 60% of soybeans have bloomed, ahead of last year's 47% and the 5-yr average of 54%. About 24% of the crop has set pods, ahead of where we were last year at 16% and the 5-yr average of 20%. Conditions were described as 4% excellent, 46% good, 38% fair, 11% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Pest Alert: Bean Plataspid/Kudzu Bug!

The bean plataspid, *Megacopta cribraria*, (we might start calling this species the “kudzu bug” to make it easy) has spread to the following counties (13) in SC: Anderson, Oconee, Abbeville, Barnwell, Aiken, Edgefield, McCormick, Greenwood, Laurens, Saluda, Newberry, Lexington, and Greenville Counties. ***It has been found on kudzu and/or soybeans in these counties, 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.*** The best place to look for these pests is in kudzu. If you want to help document new county finds of this pest, please let me know. Digital pictures or specimens preserved in alcohol are important documentation to get from infested areas. Please email that information to me.



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Egg mass of bean plataspid on soybean leaf (below) and immatures of bean plataspid on kudzu stem (right).



Plataspids and US dime on soybean leaf (below left) and close-up of bean plataspid adult (below right) found on soybean in Barnwell County, SC (2010).



Here are the same pictures as in previous newsletters, but these photos should help those who have not identified the bean plataspid/kudzu bug. We will be conducting research to explore the potential economic impact of this invasive species – we learn more every day. 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>

Pyrethroids Working Well on Corn Earworm/Bollworm?

I have heard way too many complaints recently about corn earworm (a.k.a. bollworm, podworm, fruitworm, etc.) “coming through” pyrethroid applications. The tremendous corn earworm activity continues in cotton and is really intensifying in soybean right now. As soybeans bloom and set pods, the corn earworm can be particularly devastating as a pod-feeding insect. If a field is treated with a high rate of a pyrethroid insecticide for corn earworm exceeding threshold (our threshold is 2 larvae per rowft in soybean), and populations seem to be minimally impacted by the application, the first thing to suspect is a problem with the application of the material. Did something go wrong with the sprayer, was it delivering the correct volume of water, was it too windy/hot, etc, did we put the correct amount of product in the tank, etc??? Once all potential problems with the application can be ruled out, we turn to other potential problems. Could it be issues with the insecticide or resistance development? Perhaps, but, before we jump to that conclusion, I have never seen pressure from corn earworm this high before, and colleagues with decades of experience have stated the same. I have several insecticide trials in non-Bt cotton this season where we attempted rescue treatments for corn earworm – almost all of them were failures this season. For 3 wk in a row, we applied pyrethroids, non-pyrethroids, pre-mixed products, and “hot” tank-mixes that should have controlled bollworm, tobacco budworm, and others – we never could catch up to the “run-away” populations of 90% bollworm/10% tobacco budworm. That being stated, we have seen reports of resistance detection in vial testing of adult bollworm moths in Louisiana and Virginia. However, I run the same testing in SC, and I have not detected the high survival rates with our local populations here. That fact and field observations of my failure to stop a “run-away” population of bollworm here indicate that we are dealing with populations that have simply inundated and “out ran” our control efforts. I am not saying that we cannot be dealing with pockets of pyrethroid-resistant bollworm in certain areas. We might be dealing with pyrethroid-resistant bollworm in some areas, but I have not detected that. If you are observing “failures” with pyrethroids, see our sections on non-pyrethroids in the Cotton and Soybean Insect Management Guides. However, take into consideration the information I have provided here and do not cut rates. If you are planning to spray your soybeans or cotton with a pyrethroid insecticide with bollworm as one of the targets, use the highest labeled rates of pyrethroids right now, spray in the morning and when it is not windy, etc – do everything right. Now is not the time to cut rates.

Soybeans

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

Cotton

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

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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:

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