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Cotton/soybean insect newsletter

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Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue #15

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

20 August 2009

*****Edisto Fall Field Day*****

Do not forget to put the Edisto Fall Field Day on your calendars for Thursday, 3 September. THAT'S EXACTLY 2 WEEKS FROM TODAY! There will be tours covering row-crops, new technology, peanut production, cattle production, bull test, and vegetable production. The agenda for the row-crop tour is shown below. Pesticide recertification and CCA credits will be offered for attending this tour.

Row Crops & New Technologies

1. Influence of Planting Date and Seeding Rate on MG IV –VIII Soybeans and Improving Side-dress Nitrogen Application Rates in Corn – Pawel Wiatrak
2. LEPA Irrigation System and Water-use Efficiency of Cotton Varieties – Chris Bellamy/Ahmad Khalilian
3. Sensor-based Management of Nitrogen in Cotton Production– Wes Porter/Ahmad Khalilian
4. Management of Insects in Corn – Francis Reay-Jones
5. Management of Insects in Cotton and Soybeans – Jeremy Greene
6. Weed Management in Liberty-Linked Soybeans – Mike Marshall
7. Conventional Soybeans – Emerson Shipe
8. Soybean Rust Update – Jonathan Croft

Pest Patrol Hotline

A summary of current problems with insects is available this season via a toll-free hotline. Simply call the free number (877) 285-8525 and select the messages you would like to hear. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

Cotton Situation

As of 16 August 2009, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 79% of the bolls set, behind where we were last year at 87% but close to the 5-yr average of 82%. Conditions were described as 1% excellent, 47% good, 49% fair, 3% poor, and 0% very poor for the crop. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Soybean Situation

As of 16 August 2009, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 88% bloomed, about the same as last year at 84% and the 5-yr average of 86%. About 58% of pods are set, ahead of where we were last year at 52% and for the 5-yr average of 50%. Conditions were described as 2% excellent, 48% good, 44% fair, 5% poor, and 1% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

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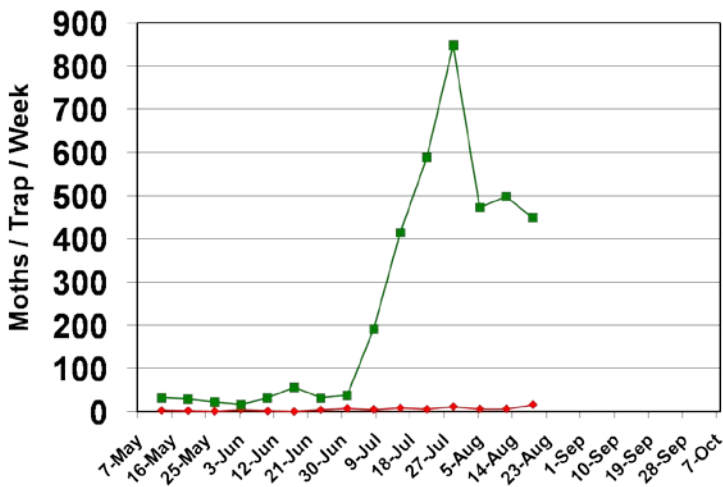
Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



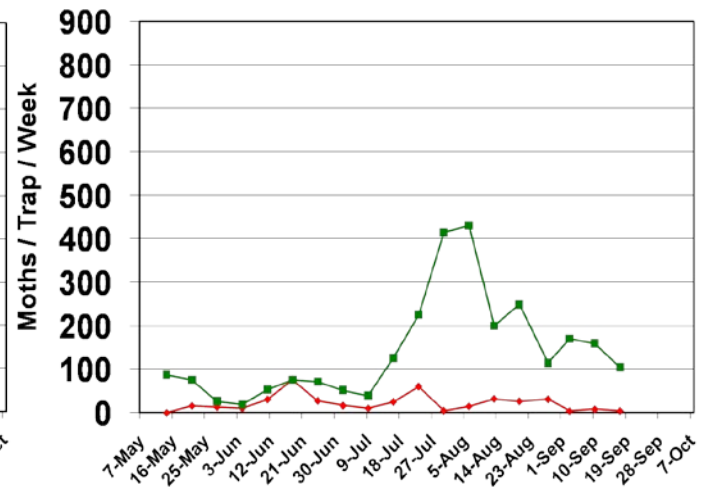
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season and last season are presented. The scales on the charts are the same to illustrate where we are compared with last year. We trapped almost 4,500 BW moths in 10 traps this past week to give us about 450/trap/wk. We averaged about 17 TBW moths per trap this past week. Captures of BW moths have decreased slightly but are still higher than the highest weekly capture for all of last year. Continue to check for bollworm escapes in Bollgard, Bollgard II, and WideStrike cotton varieties that are late with a top crop that should be protected. Continue to monitor for BW in soybeans!



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2009



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2008



News from Above the Lakes

No news to report this week. Please send me your observations and comments to include here!

News from Below the Lakes

Drake Perrow, a consultant north of here, but just below the lakes reported that he is seeing extremely high numbers of bollworm moths and egg lay in cotton this week. Drake also conducted a replicated trial comparing two insecticide treatments for control of fall armyworm (FAW) in cotton. He compared Baythroid XL at 2.6 oz + Intrepid at 4 oz versus Baythroid XL at 2.6 oz + Diamond at 6 oz. The results about 1 week after application are shown below and indicate that both treatments were good, with Diamond providing the best control.

Count Data/200 Plants	Pre-Treatment	Baythroid + Intrepid	Baythroid + Diamond
Live FAW	32	8	2
Damaged Squares	16	3	1
Damaged Bolls	36	12	5

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News from Below the Lakes (continued)

Jonathan Croft, county agent covering Berkeley and Dorchester Counties, reported that “I have not been in any cotton yet this week but I have looked at some group 5 and 7 soybeans. The MG 7 [soybeans] that I have looked at in Berkeley County that have not been sprayed yet are right at threshold for CEW. Stinkbugs were minimal. I have also looked at some MG 5 and 7 [soybeans] that were treated with an insecticide two and three weeks ago...only thing I could find in those was a few loopers; these fields were in both Berkeley and Dorchester County.”

Tommy Walker, county agent covering Allendale, Hampton, and Jasper Counties, reported that he is still seeing a few fall armyworms in cotton, although the numbers are diminishing. He has seen FAW numbers exceeding 30/100 plants in fields with the highest pressure. Almost all were in DP555 that had already been sprayed with a pyrethroid. As far as stink bugs in cotton, Tommy reported that boll damage numbers have reacted predictably (i.e. responded to [declined after] insecticide treatments) but that percentages in some fields have persisted despite treatment with insecticide (steady pressure). Most of the cotton is “bloomed out of the top”, so these issues will rapidly disappear soon. In soybeans, insect numbers are “a mixed bag”. There is a huge difference between the numbers of insects in separate fields at identical growth stages. Usually there is a pattern of like insects and density in fields at the same stage of growth, but Tommy is observing a disparity this season with that characterization. Every field has different populations of green cloverworms, stink bugs, corn earworm, loopers, etc, so all fields must be looked at and treated separately.

Need More Information?

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

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/>

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.
Associate Professor – Entomologist