



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue #6

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

13 June 2013

Pest Patrol Hotline

The information contained herein each week is available via a toll-free hotline. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. Call the free number (877) 285-8525 and select the messages you would like to hear. Select #1 for updates from the Southern Region. Select #3 for the Southeast, and then select #1 to hear my message. Text alerts are also available. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

Cotton/Soybean Insect Workshops

The last chance to pre-register for the workshop at Edisto (64 Research Rd, Blackville, SC 29817 – just west of Blackville on Hwy 78) is Monday, 17 June. Those pre-registered will be first in the food line! When we run out of food, we will be out. Please email me (green4@clermson.edu) if you intend to come. It is impossible to plan for these events without some prior notice on attendance.

The two workshops will be devoted to insect sampling, identification, and management in cotton and soybeans (maybe we will have time for corn and grain sorghum). At each workshop, we will have an indoor and in-field program, allowing for some hands-on training. We will offer pesticide recertification and CCA credits after the trainings (for those that attend through the field tour, not for anyone showing up just at lunch time - ☺).

The second one will be the following week on 27 June at the Pee Dee REC (2200 Pocket Road, Florence, 29506)...details soon. Please RSVP to me so that I can get a headcount for lunch (green4@clermson.edu).

News from Above the Lakes

No news to report this week. Please send your insect comments to me by Wednesday for inclusion here.

News from Below the Lakes

Charles Davis, county agent in Calhoun County, reported that “cotton here in Calhoun County is a mixed bag. Some looks great with very minor thrips damage and some looks pretty bad. Acepate is still going out on small cotton where we can stand up in the field. Weeds are marching ahead full speed in this hot muggy weather. Pigweed looks like it is growing a foot a day and some hand pulling is already taking place.”

News from the Piedmont/Upstate

No news to report this week. Please send your insect comments to me by Wednesday for inclusion here.

Cotton Situation

As of 10 June 2013, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had the cotton crop at 88% planted, behind where we were last year at 94% planted and the 5-yr average of 96% planted. Conditions for the cotton

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crop were described as 1% very poor, 3% poor, 41% fair, 53% good, and 2% excellent. We either get too much rain or not enough; soil moisture conditions as a whole for the state were described as 1% short, 57% adequate, and 42% surplus. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Current Problems in Cotton

There has been a lot of thrips activity late in the planting window this season. Typically, we have our worst problems with thrips on cotton planted in April when it is still cold, and conditions are not favorable for cotton growth. Cotton planted later in the planting window this season (well into May) was hit harder by thrips. The weather was still a factor, but it has been odd. There are some great visual examples of what control (or no control) options look like after the fact. The pictures below show what some of our at-plant options look like when bordering an untreated control. We have dead plants in UTC plots due to excessive thrips feeding injury.



Imidacloprid (Admire Pro) looked really good (above picture) when applied as an in-furrow spray. This was it for thrips protection...no foliar post-emergence insecticide applied over the top. The stand was reduced due to dead plants in the untreated control (UTC).

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Temik (5 lb/acre) looked really good on thrips, as expected, when compared with the UTC (above), and Thimet (also at 5 lb/acre) looked good also (below). Control plots expressed injury and stand loss that will likely lead to yield loss or at least delayed maturity.



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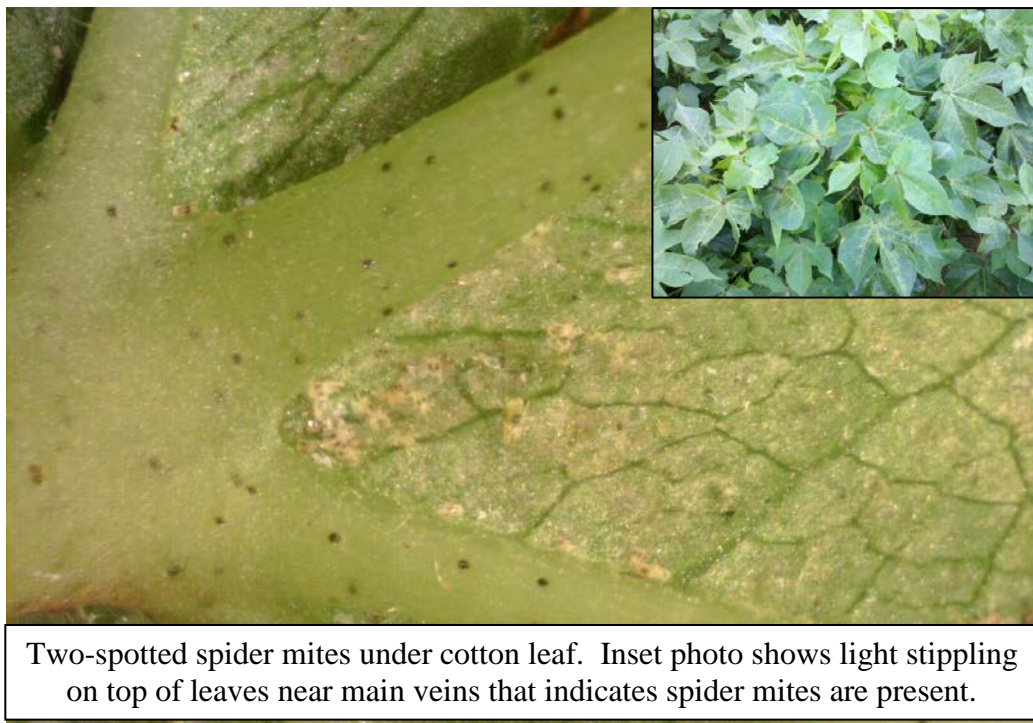


Finally, the seed treatments alone faired pretty well against thrips, at least in my trial work. The picture below shows plants protected with thiamethoxam as a seed treatment (Acceleron N) next to an untreated plot (UTC).



Spider Mites this Early?

We are going to see more and more early spider mites related to the reduction in aldicarb (Temik) use. We observed a tremendous suppression of spider mites with Temik that went well past the thrips control window. Now that the supply of aldicarb is about exhausted, we will see more early problems with spider mites. Check leaves on the top for the stippling, and check underneath for the mites and eggs, particularly near the junction with the petiole. A high rate of



Two-spotted spider mites under cotton leaf. Inset photo shows light stippling on top of leaves near main veins that indicates spider mites are present.

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bifenthrin (5.5-6.4 oz/acre) might work, but control of spider mites can be erratic with that material. A true miticide might be needed. Recommended products are shown below. Research data on treatment thresholds for spider mites are not abundant, so we have always had to handle infestations of spider mites using experience-based thresholds.

SPIDER MITES

Product	Product/acre	Lb ai/acre	Acre/gal	REI	PHI	Comments
chlorpyrifos (R) Lorsban 4 E Nufos 4 E	16.0 oz 16.0 oz	0.5	8 8	24 hr	14 d	
bifenthrin (R) Discipline 2 EC Brigade 2 EC Fanfare 2 EC Bifenture 2 EC	3.8-6.4 oz 3.8-6.4 oz 3.8-6.4 oz 3.8-6.4 oz	0.06-0.1	20-33.7 20-33.7 20-33.7 20-33.7	12 hr	14 d	Higher rates required for adequate control
dicofol Dicofol 4 E	1.0-1.5 qt	1.0-1.5	2.7-4	12 hr	30 d	Max of 2 applications
propargite Comite 6.55 Comite II 6	16.0-32.0 oz 20.0-36.0 oz	0.82-1.69	4-8 3.55-6.4	7 d	50 d	Do not apply until plants are 12 in tall
spiromesifen Oberon 2 SC Oberon 4 SC	8.0-16.0 oz 4.0-8.0 oz	0.125-0.25	8-16 16-32	12 hr	30 d	Per season 32 oz limit 16 oz limit
etoxazole Zeal 72.7 WSP	0.66-1.0 oz	0.03-0.045	-	12 hr	28 d	Max of 1 application
abamectin (R) Agri-Mek 0.15 EC Zoro 0.15 EC	8.0-16.0 oz 8.0-16.0 oz	0.009-0.0188	8-16 8-16	12 hr	20 d	32 oz limit per season
feproximate Portal 0.4	16.0-32.0 oz	0.05-0.1	4-8	12 hr	14 d	Limit of 2 pt per season

Infestations of spider mites usually appear in border rows of a field or sometimes in isolated spots within a field. When mites first appear, treating border rows or spot treating may prevent outbreaks.

Soybean Situation

As of 10 June 2013, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had the soybean crop at 63% planted, not far off from where we were last year at 72% and the 5-yr average of 69% planted. About 42% of the soybean crop has emerged, behind where we were last year at 53% and the 5-yr average of 53%. Conditions for the soybean crop were described as 0% very poor, 3% poor, 43% fair, 51% good, and 3% excellent. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

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Kudzu Bugs

We are seeing large nymphs in kudzu, indicating that the first generation of the year is nearing the adult stage. This generation will move from kudzu and early-planted soybeans to our soybean acres. I still think that we should be using border sprays to address early infestations of overwintered adult kudzu bugs when possible. However, we are rapidly approaching situations where entire fields will need to be treated. Those decisions will need to be made on a field-by-field basis. Our best recommendations are located in a kudzu bug field guide the USB helped us produce last year that is available online at:

<http://digital.turn-page.com/i/87846>

The latest distribution for the kudzu bug in the southeastern USA can be viewed at the link below. Anytime you want to check the map, click on the link below, and you will be taken to the updated map:

<http://maps.bugwood.org/eddmascustomcounty2.cfm?map=5&legend=bottom&height=600&width=550>

Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm

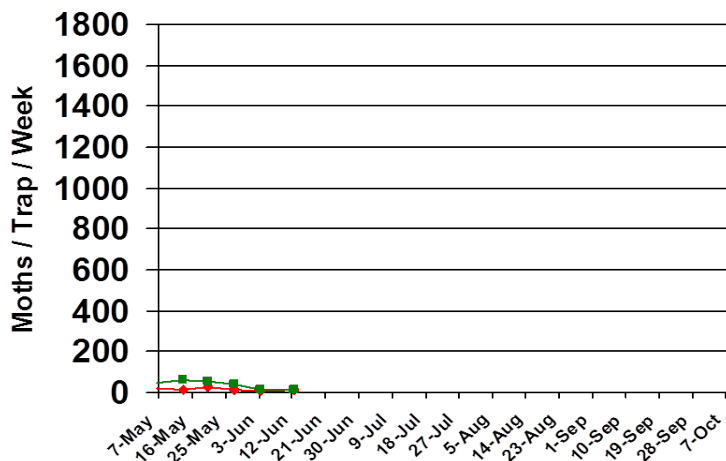


Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2012 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for a very limited number of non-Bt-cotton acres. I provide these data as a measure of moth activity in our local area as an indication of moth

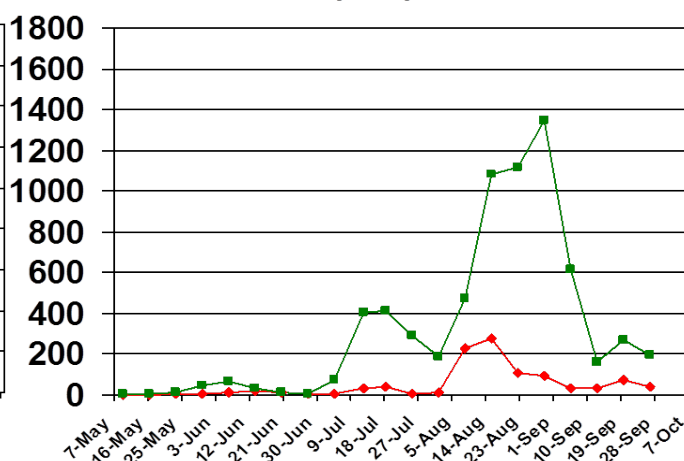
presence and activity near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2013



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2012



Pest Management Handbook - 2013

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2013 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/>

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Sprayer Calibration Mobile App



Download our free mobile app called “Calibrate My Sprayer” that helps check for proper calibration of spraying equipment (available in both iOS and Android formats): <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/mobile-apps/>

Need More Information?

For more Extension information: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/>

For historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest_management/newsletters/index.html

Sincerely,

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



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