



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue #2

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

27 May 2010

Cotton Scout School

We will be offering a Cotton Scouting School on 17 June at the Pee Dee Research and Education Center near Florence, SC. The program will include presentations about cotton growth and development, how to spot and report glyphosate-resistant weeds, how to identify insects (good and bad), pesticide and safety issues, and more. Lunch will be provided, and there will be raffle-ticket prizes for those in attendance. The program is free to cotton producers, crop consultants, Extension personnel, industry representatives, and anyone else interested in cotton and scouting techniques. In order to get an approximation on how many will attend (for planning lunch), please pre-register by emailing me by 14 June to indicate how many you will be bringing to the training (green4@clemson.edu).

Pest Patrol Hotline

Again this year there will be 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

Randy Cubbage, Extension agent covering Kershaw, Lee, and Sumter Counties, had the following report late last week: "We only received less than 0.2 inch of rainfall this past week, in general, even though a few farms got 0.5 inch total. Much of our cotton has yet to emerge and some of it has been planted for 3 weeks now but still showing some emergence activity. Not much reporting about insects yet".

News from Below the Lakes

Charles Davis, Extension agent covering Calhoun and Orangeburg Counties, reported that "we are 95% planted in the Calhoun/Orangeburg area. For the most part cotton looks fair to good. I am surprised that we have the stands that we have considering how dry it was. Some folks did not get any rain out of the last few events, so they are still struggling. Thrips pressure appears low. Some Orthene is being sprayed. Rain is the biggest cotton issue at this time. Weeds will be coming soon".

Cotton Situation

As of 24 May 2010, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 82% of the crop being planted, ahead of where we were last year at 72% and the 5-yr average of 76%. Conditions were described as 1% excellent, 46% good, 46% fair, 7% poor, and 0% very poor for the crop. These are

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observed/perceived state-wide averages. It is dry in many places, but, surprisingly there is moisture left in the root zone to get us to the next rain system, hopefully.

Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm

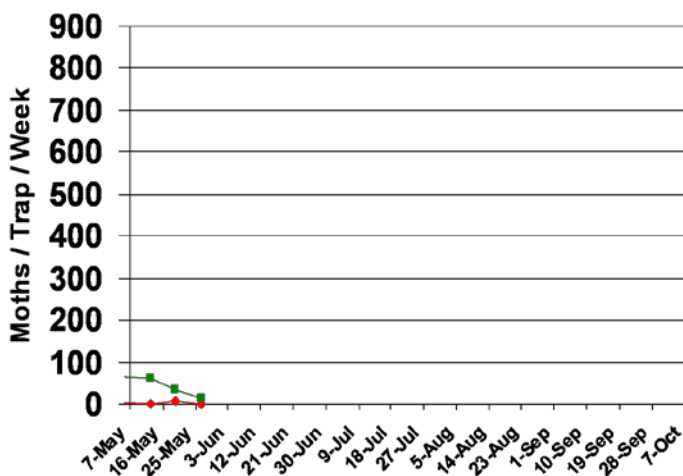


Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season and last season are presented. The scales on the charts are the same to illustrate where we are compared with last year. We have been trapping anywhere from 146 to 639 BW moths in 10 traps over the last several weeks. Numbers have been declining since early May. We started out capturing a few TBW

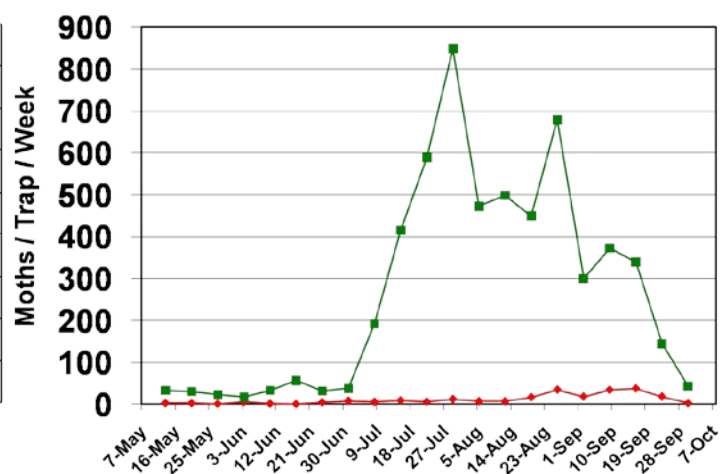
moths per trap, but numbers of TBW dropped to 0 this past week. I fully expect that our trap numbers will mirror those of last year or be very close, but the initial numbers are already higher than those from last year. Look for numbers to increase in early July, just like they have done in the past.



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2010 (EREC)



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2009



Thrips in Cotton

Now is the time to be mindful of thrips injury, deciding whether or not to spray for thrips. Check for thrips by shaking pulled plants inside a large white plastic/foam cup. The adults are easy to see, but be careful to look for immatures (small, pale, and without wings). When you see the population shift from adults to immatures, your preventative material is not doing the job it did closer to emergence. Consider spraying for thrips only when the following conditions are met:

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1. Numbers exceed our threshold of 2 or more thrips per plant, with particular attention paid to the presence of immatures, and injury to new growth/leaves is excessive.
2. Growing conditions are poor (cool temperature, dry soil, excessive moisture, etc.), preventing uptake of insecticide.

We don't have to worry about excessive moisture in many places nor cool temperatures at this point, so take a look at injury to new leaves, and count thrips with the "cup method" to determine the need for a treatment. Here are the insecticides recommended for control of thrips:

THRIPS (FOLIAR SPRAYS)

Product	Product/acre	Lb ai/acre	Acre/gal	REI	PHI	Comments
dicrotophos (R) Bidrin 8 E	1.6-3.2 oz	0.1-0.2	40-80	6 d	30 d	3.2 oz limit pre-square
acephate Orthene 97	2.5-3.0 oz	0.15-0.18	-	24 hr	21 d	
Orthene 90 S	2.67-3.2 oz		-			
Acephate 90 S	2.67-3.2 oz		-			
dimethoate Dimethoate 4 EC	4-8 oz	0.125-0.25	16-32	48 hr	14 d	
methamidophos (R) Monitor 4 EC	3.2-6.4 oz	0.1-0.2	20-40	48 hr	50 d	Existing stock only

Generally a soil insecticide used at planting will protect seedling plants from the severe stunting that is characteristic of thrips injury. Occasionally, however, conditions will be unfavorable for proper uptake of systemic insecticides (too cool, dry soil, excessive moisture, etc.) and plants can be severely damaged. **Foliar treatments will be most effective when applied to cotton seedlings prior to unfolding of the second true leaf.** At this growth stage a foliar insecticide treatment may be needed when two or more thrips are found per plant. Shake each plant (randomly select 25 or more) into a coffee cup or a similar utensil to facilitate counting. When most plants have severely damaged growing points and immature thrips are present, one or more foliar treatments may be needed to allow the plants to resume normal growth and development. Examine plants 5-7 days after the initial treatment, and treat again if immatures are still present on most plants. When the newly unfolded leaves of infested plants are free of damage, and plants appear to be growing at a normal rate, further applications of insecticides will have little benefit. Treatments applied beyond the four-leaf stage of growth may actually be counterproductive, as these would likely reduce beneficial populations and result in early-season problems with other pests.

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 24 May 2010, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 43% of the crop being planted, well ahead of last year (29%) and close to the 5-yr average of 37%. About 28% of soybeans have emerged, ahead of where we were last year at 18% and the 5-yr average of 16%. Conditions are similar to those reported for cotton. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

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>

Computer Use on the Farm

Thanks to Dr. Bob Bellinger for the following link and information about computer use on the farm. See the link if you are interested in how that has changed within the last decade.

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/FarmComp/FarmComp-08-14-2009.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:
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