



Cotton Insect Newsletter

Letter #5

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

1 June 2006

*****REMINDER*****

COTTON SCOUT SCHOOLS

5 JUNE AT EDISTO RESEARCH & EDUCATION CENTER IN BLACKVILLE

6 JUNE AT PEE DEE RESEARCH & EDUCATION CENTER IN FLORENCE

FREE PROGRAM, LUNCH, AND PRIZES

Newsletter Update

Previous newsletters are archived at <http://www.clemson.edu/edisto/cotton/cotton.htm>. Please distribute hard copies or electronic newsletter files to all interested, and please provide weekly input for the newsletter. Your observations and local knowledge are important – email or phone in your comments to me!

Jeremy Greene

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Crop Situation

The NASS had us at about 85% planted at the end of the fourth week of May, just ahead of the 5-yr average of 84%. I do not have to tell many of you that we need some rain on most of the crop. Seems like we skipped the end of spring and jumped into the middle of summer – it is hot!

Thrips

Thrips are still a concern, especially with it being so hot and dry. Continue to monitor for new injury to new leaf tissue as it emerges. Remember to ignore old damage and focus on the current insect population and damage potential. Pay particular attention to immature thrips, a clear sign of continued reproduction. If this cotton continues to grow slowly, we will need to watch it for thrips until we get 4-6 leaves, water from Mother Nature, and some good general growing conditions. I should be able to provide some data tables from our trials next week and let you know how each control option is doing in my trials here at Edisto REC.

News from Above the Lakes

No news to report this week. This is your turn for input – send your comments and observations to me.

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News from Below the Lakes

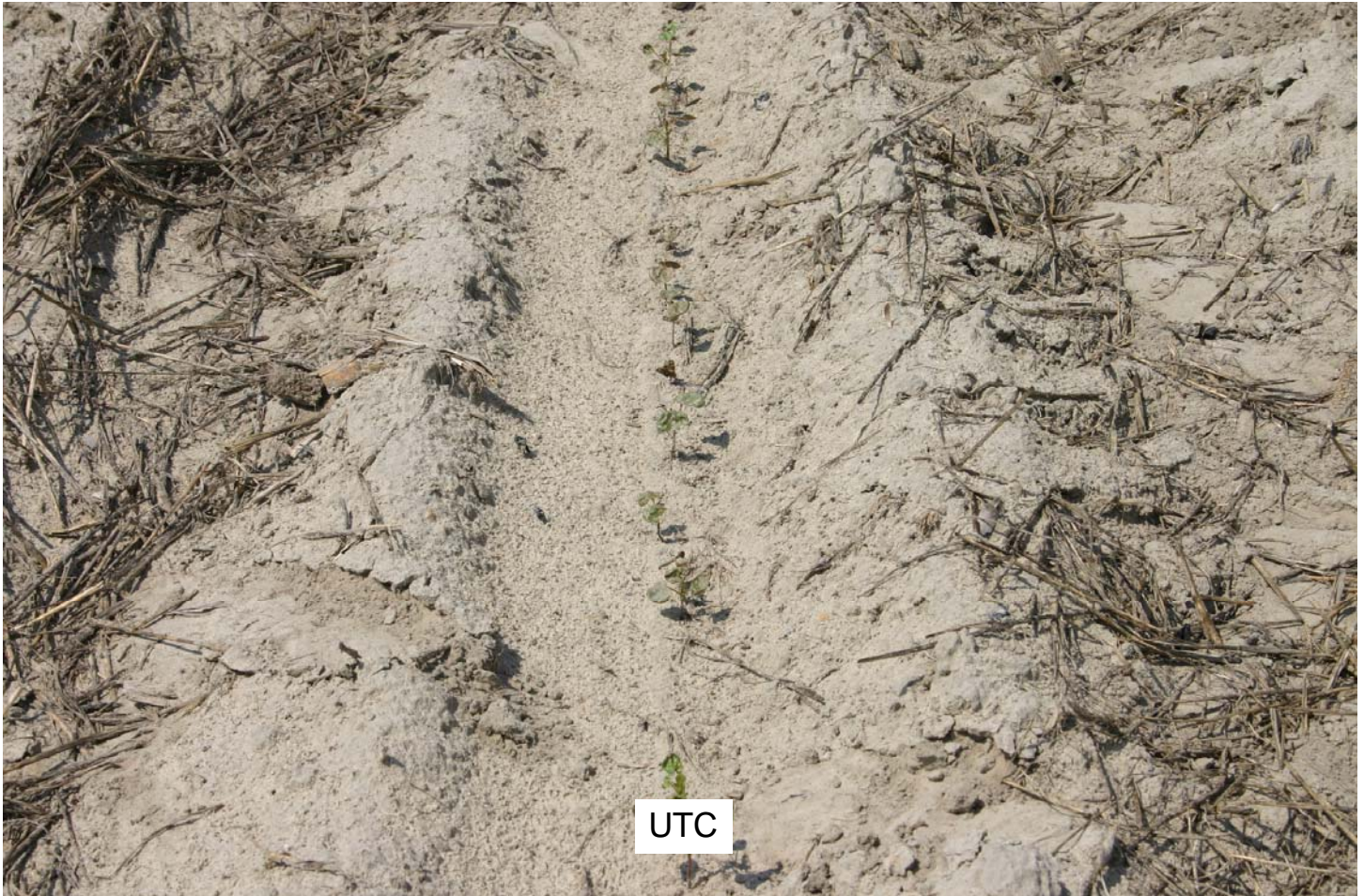
Charles Davis in Calhoun County reported last week that “the cotton situation in Calhoun County is not what we would like, but it is tolerable. Those 50 degree nights really took the steam out of cotton emergence. Fungicide treatments appeared to have paid off this year, as treated seed stands look better and are growing off faster than untreated stands. We've had some hail damage last weekend but think we will grow out of it alright. We were a little concerned about hoppers for a while, but some were treated and some were just ignored with the end result being that the cotton is still standing. I've seen a fair number of Negro bugs clustered about some fields. Don't appear to be causing any damage as of yet. I did see some damage about 5 years ago, so I keep an eye on them.”

Tommy Walker has been looking at some thrips trials and took the following pictures of his cotton at 29 days after planting. Avicta Complete Pak = ACP; Temik rates are 3 or 5 lb as noted in pictures; UTC is fungicide-treated seed – no thrips treatment.



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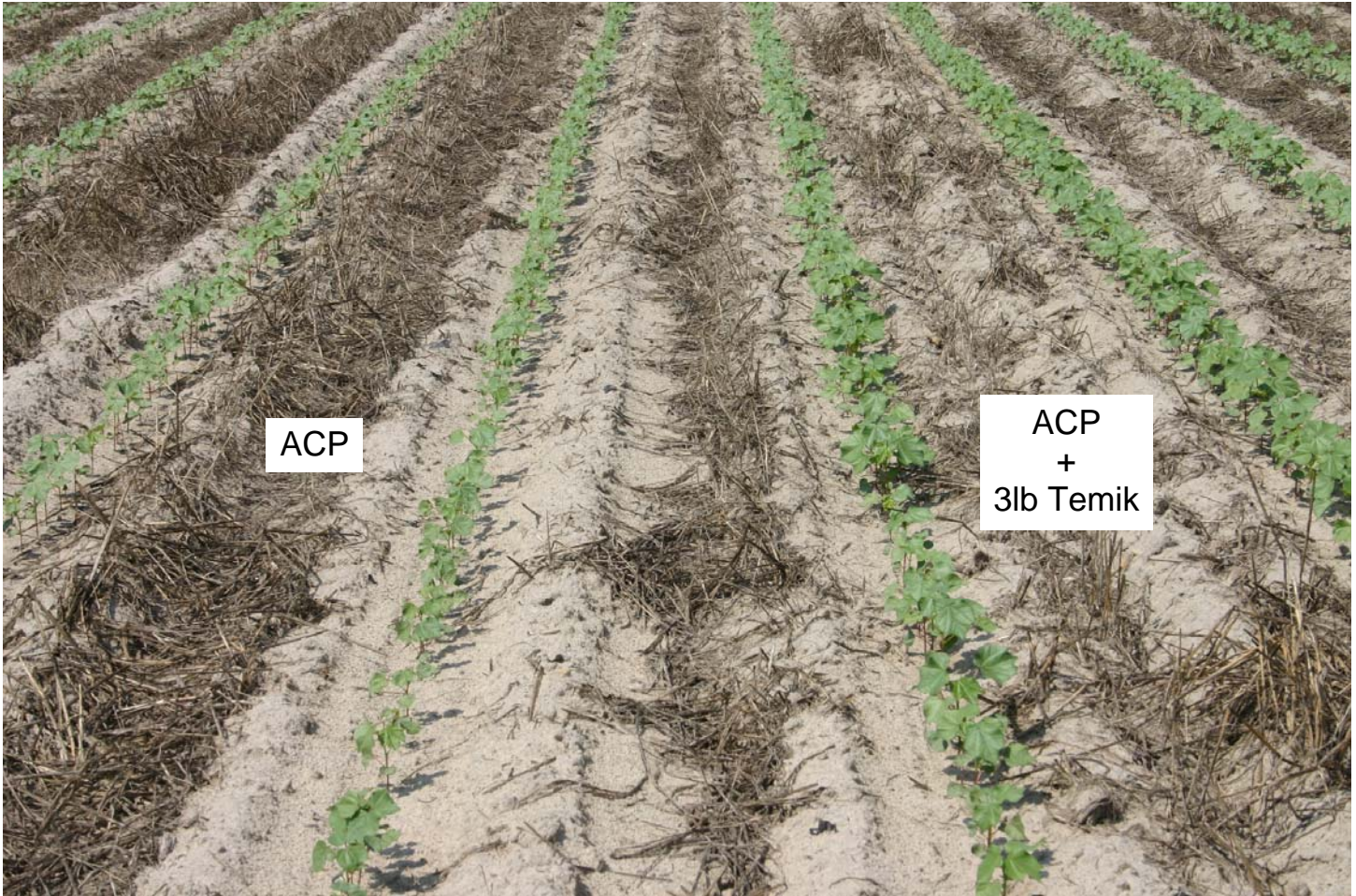
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What do these pictures tell us? For one, they tell us that pressure from thrips in this field is pretty high. One look at the untreated check plots tells you that. Also, growing conditions are perfect for insect numbers and terrible for the plants. Cotton had a time getting out the ground and outgrowing damage early due to cold temperatures, and now it is struggling to outgrow injury from thrips because of the lack of water and stress from heat. When you look at the big picture, we are lucky to have cotton in this situation treated with some kind of preventative material for thrips – anything. Nematode samples have been pulled from each plot in this test and other tests and will be taken on two more occasions. How much are nematodes impacting the aesthetics here? And that may be just it – aesthetics. When we get to harvest, we might not have any differences between seed treatment, in-furrow or a combination of both options. Or...we might. We have a long road to travel until then. For now, these are simple observations. No treatment is being promoted or discouraged over another.

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Cotton Scouting Schools

Remember that next Monday is our scout school here at Edisto REC and that we have one at Pee Dee REC the next day. I sent the agendas in last week's newsletter. Don't forget to continue to get the word out about the schools. It is not too late to tell folks about the schools. If we have a good crowd at each location and get a favorable response, we can continue this type of training for the public in the future. I expect to have somewhere between 50-100 participants at each location.

Edisto Research & Education Center, Blackville, SC – 5 June 2006 (8:30am-3:30pm)

Pee Dee Research & Education Center, Florence, SC – 6 June 2006 (8:30am-3:30pm)

There will be information on cotton growth and development, troublesome weed identification, proper scouting procedures, insect identification, pesticide safety, and much more. Lunch will be provided.

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Need More Information?

Log on to the following webpage to view important cotton management recommendations, data, and historical cotton insect newsletters: <http://www.clemson.edu/scg/ipm/cotton.html>

To see cotton insect newsletters for this year, go to the following webpage to view the cotton page at the Edisto Research & Education Center. <http://www.clemson.edu/edisto/cotton/cotton.htm>

We will continue to update this webpage in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.
Cotton Entomologist



Visit our website at:
<http://www.clemson.edu>

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