Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

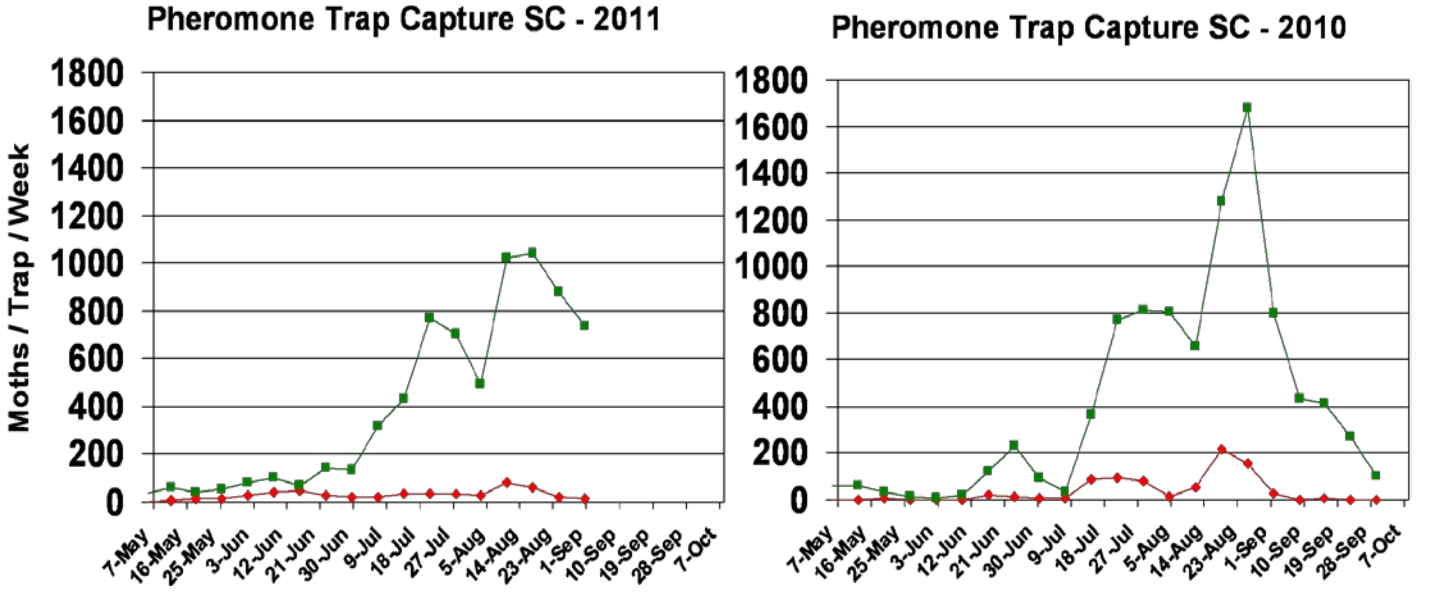
Volume 6, Issue #16 **Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC** **2 September 2011**

Pest Patrol Hotline

If you do not have access to this newsletter but want the information contained herein each week, there is a toll-free hotline for insect problems updated here. 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 #3 for the Southeast, and select #1 to hear my message. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm

Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC last season and this season are shown below. Trends remain similar, although numbers last year were astronomical. Damage in our non-Bt plots has been high this season. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for a limited number of non-Bt-cotton acres. I provide these data as a measure of moth activity in our local area where I use these data as an indication of moth presence and activity near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.

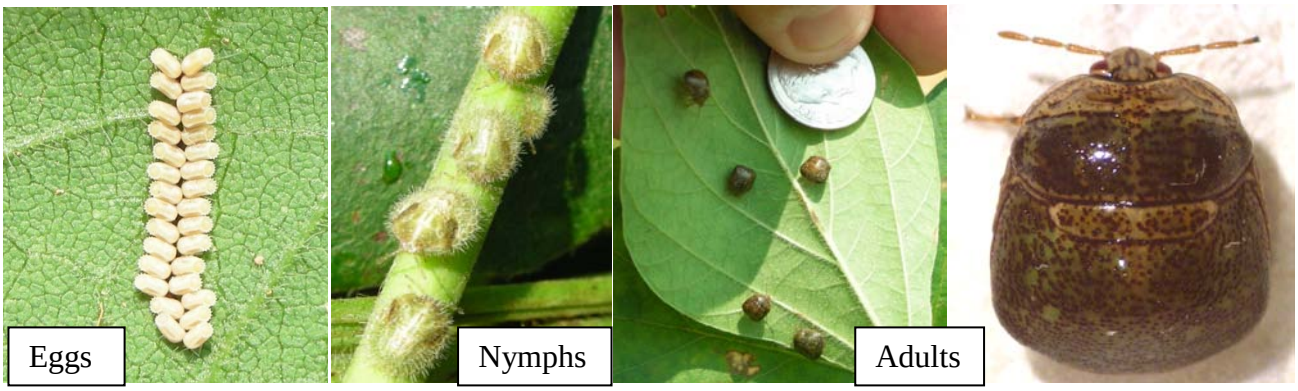


Soybean Situation

As of 29 August 2011, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 94% of soybeans as bloomed, close to where we were last year at 96% and the 5-yr average of 95%. About 68% of pods have been set, compared with 78% last year and 74% for the 5-yr average. Conditions for soybeans were reported as 9% very poor, 23% poor, 43% fair, 24% good and 1% excellent. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

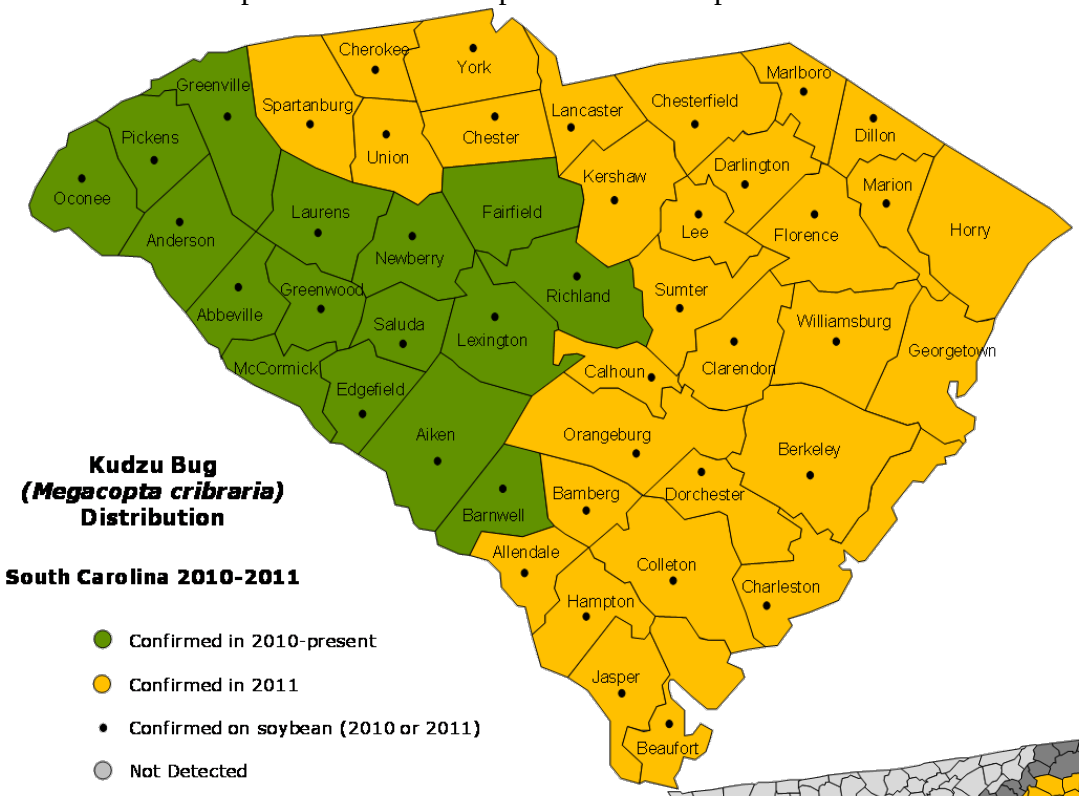
Kudzu Bug/Bean Plataspid

The kudzu bug (a.k.a. bean plataspid), *Megacopta cribraria*, IS PRESENT IN EVERY COUNTY IN SC. We confirmed the last county during mid-July of this year. It continues to spread in the Southeast. ***It has been found on kudzu, wisteria, lima beans, soybeans and other leguminous hosts. Please email me with reports in all counties not reporting them in soybeans previously – see map below. We only have 4 counties remaining from which the species has not been reported in soybeans: McCormick, Fairfield, Horry, and Georgetown.***

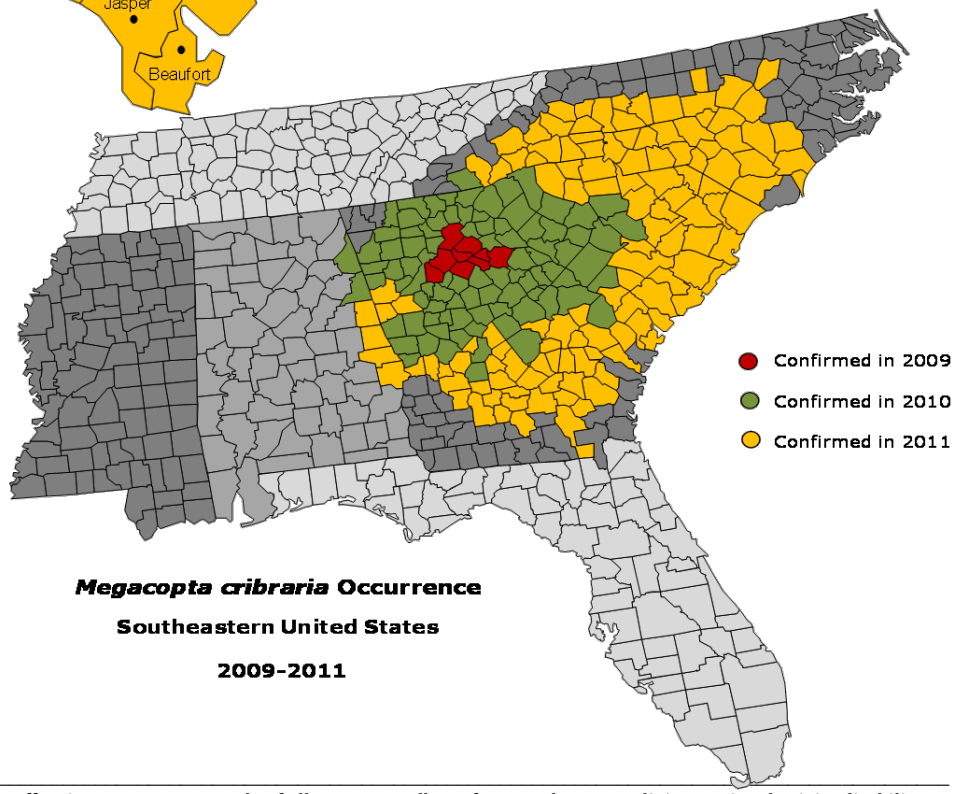


I am getting numerous reports of less-than-desired control of kudzu bug in soybeans. I am pretty sure that we are experiencing a failure to deliver the insecticide to the insects, but we might be dealing with some differences in control among the pyrethroids. We will have data to present this winter that will shed light on that. The canopies are closed now, and the bugs, especially the nymphs, are confined to the main stem for the most part low on the plant. I suspect that we are just not getting most of these late-season applications to the bugs. The nymphs remain low on the plant until they molt to the adult stage and get more mobile. We are seeing that right now with the last instar nymphs molting to the adult stage in mass. I would expect that control would get easier as that occurs, but only time will tell. Our recommendations next season will likely include language emphasizing the importance of reducing populations of kudzu bug before the canopy closes. This has been our first season with this insect in numbers high enough to conduct research. It amazingly "covered" the state this season. If you look back to archived newsletters from 2010 (Volume 5, Issue 5, June 2010), "I told you so"…we started talking about this insect early last year. I hope that everyone else is learning about this insect, and I welcome your observations any time. We will need to work together on solutions for this new species that is likely here to stay as an economic pest of soybeans for some time.

The latest known distribution of the kudzu bug in SC is represented below. We are documenting its presence on soybeans (counties with dots below). Some were observed in soybeans last year, and many more have been observed in the crop this season. A map of the infested portions of the southeastern USA is also shown.



Southeast map courtesy of
Dr. Wayne Gardner (UGA).



Soybean Insect Control Guide

Clemson University Publication SL1 (Soybean Insect Management) has been revised for 2011 and is available free from your local county office. It is also available online at:
http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/AGRO/SL1.PDF

Pest Management Handbook - 2011

Insect control recommendations are also available online in the 2011 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/soybean insect newsletters:

For more cotton and soybean information:
http://www.clemson.edu/public/rec/edisto/research/index.html

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

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.
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http://www.clemson.edu