



Cotton Insect Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue #13

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

2 August 2007

Fall Field Day

This is a reminder that you are invited to our Fall Field Day at the Edisto Research and Education Center near Blackville, SC, on 6 September 2007. Registration will begin at 9:00AM. Tours and programs will begin at 9:30AM. Lunch will be from 12:00 to 1:00PM. The cotton/soybean program will be immediately after lunch. An early copy of the program will be available and distributed soon.

Crop Situation

The USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 89% squaring for 29 July 2007, just behind the 5-yr average of 92%. As of the same date, 28% of the crop is setting bolls, behind the 5-yr average of 49%. About 2% of the state's cotton crop was reported to be in excellent condition. The remainder was reported as 42% good, 45% fair, 10% poor, and 1% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

“Natural Refuge” for Bollgard II and WideStrike Cotton

Here is the very latest on refuge requirements in cotton, if you have not already heard the “new” news. As of last week, a structured non-Bt refuge is no longer required for WIDESTRIKE cotton east of Texas basically. The natural refuge option is available for PhytoGen brand cottonseed containing WIDESTRIKE planted in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas (excluding the following counties: Brewster, Crane, Crockett, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Loving, Pecos, Presidio, Reeves, Terrell, Val Verde, Ward and Winkler) and Virginia.

This now applies to BOLLGARD II and WIDESTRIKE cotton – it does not apply to original BOLLGARD cotton. As of now, BOLLGARD (e.g. DP 555 BRR) still requires a structured non-Bt cotton refuge. We covered “Natural Refuge” in issue #5 this season. See that newsletter for a description of what that exactly means. See page 5 at the following link for details on refuge requirements:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/ENTOM/IC97.PDF>

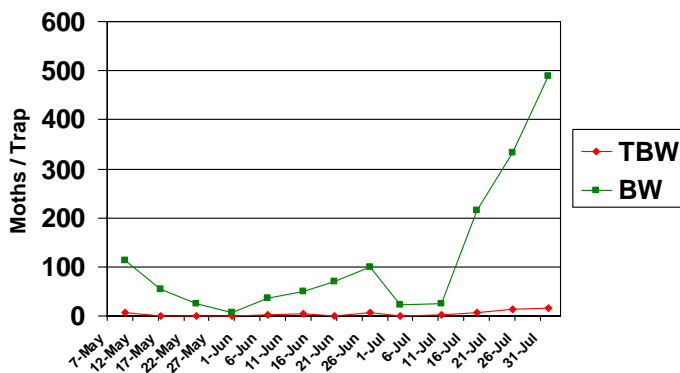
Bottom Line: You no longer have to keep the 5% untreated option for your BOLLGARD II and WIDESTRIKE cotton. You can now treat those 5% fields with insecticides for caterpillars. When planting fields with BOLLGARD II and WIDESTRIKE cotton next year, you do not have to plant untreated non-Bt cotton as a structured refuge for WIDESTRIKE and BOLLGARD II. *YOU WILL STILL HAVE TO PLANT A STRUCTURED REFUGE FOR BOLLGARD COTTON IN 2008!*



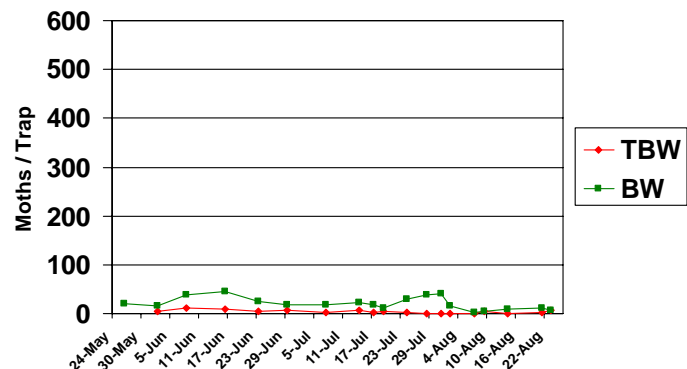
Tobacco Budworm & Bollworm

Captures of adult tobacco budworm and bollworm in pheromone traps at EREC for this season and last season are pictured below. We detected about the same number of tobacco budworm moths as found last week, but the captures of bollworm moths continued to climb. The scales on the 2007 and 2006 charts are the same and demonstrate how much larger our bollworm numbers continue to be this year compared with last year. The numbers from this past week are almost ten times higher than our highest weekly capture all of last year. How high will it go?

Pheromone Trap Capture (EREC - 2007)



Pheromone Trap Capture (EREC - 2006)



Bollworm moths remain everywhere in cotton this week, and egg pressure is still high in many places. I have seen egg counts drop in previously treated plots, demonstrating the repellency effect that pyrethroids have on female moths. That has quickly faded, and egg numbers have gone back up in most cases.

While using a drop cloth and shaking plants this week at EREC, I observed over 175 large bollworms on 36 row-feet (almost 5 per row-ft) in untreated plots of non-Bt cotton. That is a load of caterpillars! Most of the non-Bt cotton other than structured refuge fields still required for Bollgard should have been treated at least twice by now. With egg counts still high in many places, fields of Bollgard cotton (1st generation Bt) will likely need additional treatments if counts continue to exceed 75+ eggs, 30 small (<0.25 inch) worms, or 3 large (>0.25 inch) worms per 100 plants or 5% boll damage. Once again, Bollgard 2 and WideStrike (2nd generation Bt) should be ok regardless of egg numbers. However, those technologies are not 100% on bollworm, especially under heavy pressure. You need to check those advanced Bt cottons for square and boll injury from caterpillars and for larger escaped worms. Allow the technology to work before treating Bollgard 2 and WideStrike for bollworm. Use 3 large worms per 100 plants or 5% boll injury as a trigger for treating those advanced Bt cottons for bollworm.

Stink Bugs

We covered stink bugs thoroughly in last week's newsletter, so we will keep it short on bugs this week. We are seeing numbers increase, but our boll-injury counts remain relatively low in various tests on treatment threshold refinement for stink bugs. Those counts will undoubtedly increase next week and in the weeks to come. August would be our "National Stink Bug Month" if we had one.

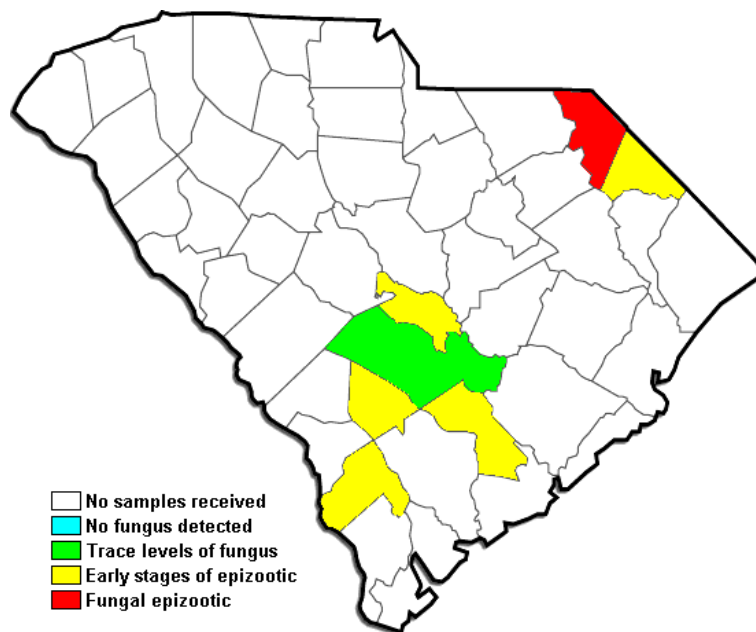


News from Above the Lakes

Randy Cabbage in Lee County reported that consultants in his area have been treating for bollworm after high egg counts and stink bug numbers increasing. Mitch Binarr reported late last week that they were “finally getting a few showers up here. Cotton crop is variable and reflects rainfall patterns.....Many cotton fields have been stressed and have initiated cut-out.”

News from Below the Lakes

Jonathan Croft in Dorchester County sent in four samples to the aphid fungus survey early last week. He received the results back last Friday with infections of 28, 24, 10, and 10%. The aphid/leaf samples were taken across the upper end of Dorchester County. It looks like the aphid fungus is building and established elsewhere, so aphids should start disappearing soon, if they have not already in your area. Good news! Below is the current situation for the aphid fungus in South Carolina.



Printed Cotton Insect Recommendations

Copies of “Cotton Insect Management” (IC 97) recommendations are available at your local county office. You can visit the following website for an electronic version of the recommendations:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/ENTOM/IC97.PDF>

Need More Information?

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

<http://www.clemson.edu/edisto/cotton/cotton.htm>

<http://www.clemson.edu/scg/ipm/cotton.html>

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Sincerely,

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