



Cotton Insect Newsletter

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Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

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Status of Cotton Crop

HOT & DRY! We need a good general rain soon, or we're headed for trouble. As of 8 June 2008, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 98% of the crop being planted, just ahead of the 5-yr average of 96%. Also reported was progress of 0% squaring, just behind the 5-yr average of 5%. Only 1% of the state's cotton crop was reported to be in excellent condition. The remainder was reported as 40% good, 52% fair, 5% poor, and 2% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

News from Above the Lakes

No news this week. Please send me your observations and comments!

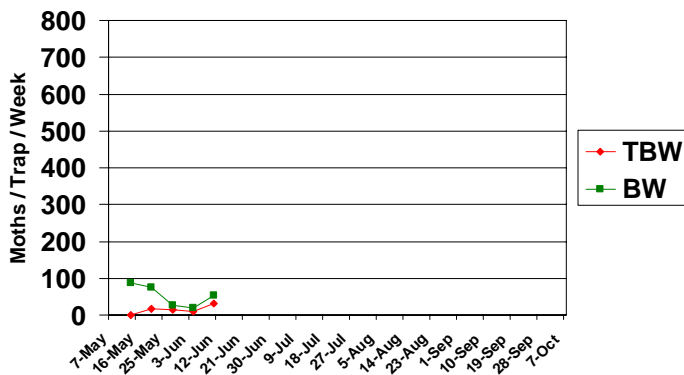
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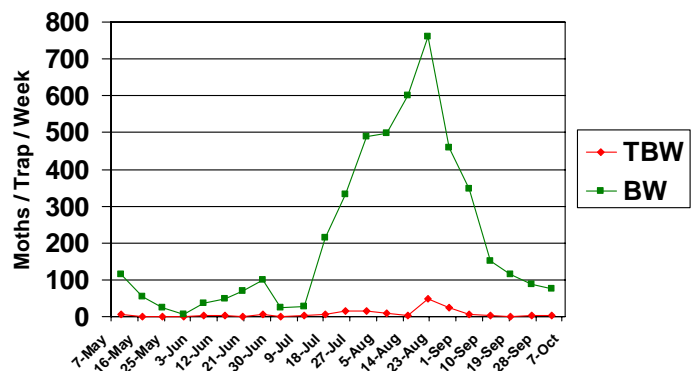
Tobacco Budworm & Bollworm

Captures of adult tobacco budworm and bollworm in pheromone traps at EREC for this season and last season are pictured below. Numbers of bollworm moths are increasing. Also, we caught 61 tobacco budworm moths in a couple of TBW traps this last week! The scales on the 2008 and 2007 charts are the same to illustrate where we are compared with last year.

Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2008 (EREC)



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2007 (EREC)



The Weather & Bugs

Some insects could care less about the dry weather because they get all they need from the unfortunate plants. Thrips are a good example of that, as are many other arthropods, such as spider mites. There are other insects

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that do fall into the category of needing a rain every now and then in order to thrive. Apparently, stink bugs are a candidate for this designation. They need abundantly available hosts to use in succession throughout the year. That did not exist in 2007 and 2006 because of the drought, particularly because it occurred early in the year, affecting abundance of early wild hosts. Many different wild host plants are used as initial sites for oviposition by adult stink bugs coming out of overwintering sites. Undoubtedly, the reduction in overall availability of wild host plants resulted in reduced numbers of stink bugs during the last couple of years. This year, although it is hot and dry right now, we had a relatively wet spring season and host availability was higher. Also, we have seen an increase in cultivated hosts such as wheat, corn, and soybeans in the last couple of years, so there are many more acres of these hosts that are used by stink bugs as a “stepping stones” to work their way through the season, increasing populations as they go. Early reports on numbers of stink bugs indicate that their numbers will be higher this season. Also remember that the late freeze last year tremendously reduced numbers of stink bugs. That did not happen this year. I am hearing quite a bit about stink bugs in corn this season. A good rule of thumb is that when it is a good crop year, it will very likely be a bad bug year. Conditions suited to producing a good crop are well suited to producing large numbers of insects. Let’s keep a watch on stink bugs this year – not a prediction, just a warning.

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>

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.
Cotton Entomologist



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