



Cotton Insect Newsletter

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Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

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Status of Cotton Crop

It is still HOT & DRY! We desperately need a weather front or tropical depression to bring rain soon – these scattered showers are not going to get it done. As of 15 June 2008, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 99% of the crop being planted, equal to the 5-yr average of 99%. Also reported was progress of 8% squaring, behind the 5-yr average of 15%. Only 1% of the state’s cotton crop was reported to be in excellent condition. The remainder was reported as 23% good, 56% fair, 17% poor, and 3% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Tobacco Budworm & Bollworm

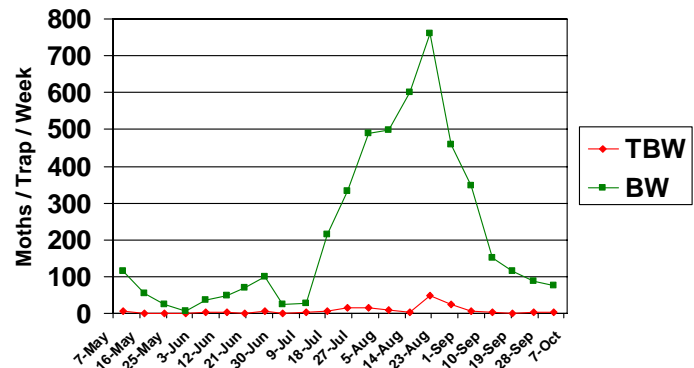
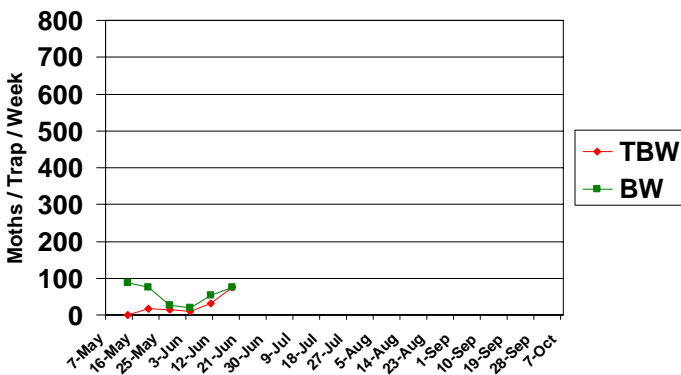
Captures of adult tobacco budworm (TBW) and bollworm (BW) in pheromone traps at EREC for this season and last season are pictured below. Numbers of BW moths are increasing. Also, we caught 76 TBW moths in a couple of TBW traps this last week! That is about the same number of TBW as BW moths captured per trap this week! The scales on the 2008 and 2007 charts are the same to illustrate where we are compared with last year.



Bollworm (left) and tobacco budworm (right)

Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2008 (EREC)

Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2007 (EREC)



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### **News from Above the Lakes**

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

### **News from Below the Lakes**

A local consultant has reported increasing numbers of tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in non-Bt cotton that he is checking. That is in line with what we are detecting with local pheromone traps (see 2008 chart) and with reports from surrounding areas. He is also seeing 15+ eggs per 100 plants associated with these moth sightings in the field and is getting concerned about the hundreds of acres of non-Bt cotton. The cotton he is checking is about 9 nodes and has multiple squares on it. The field has probably been squaring for a couple of weeks. I reminded him that research has shown that we can lose all squares for at least the first 3 weeks and not see a significant loss in yield. At this point, yield potential in the field looks good – it has received some of the scattered showers and is growing good. He will want to protect the field, but my advice was to wait another week before pulling the trigger. Insecticide options in this case would include but not be limited to: 1) spinosad (Tracer) at 2+ oz per acre, 2) indoxacarb (Steward) at 11.3 oz per acre, or 3) emamectin benzoate (Denim) at 10-12 oz per acre. The Tracer option would provide control of TBW, the Steward option would control TBW and give suppression of plant bugs (which can be problematic in some fields approaching bloom – although not usually a problem in SC), and the Denim option would provide control of TBW and suppression of building spider mites, which can be a problem in early cotton.

### **Good WebSites:**

Go to the following websites for information on photos of insects:

<http://entweb.clemson.edu/museum/index.htm> (Interactive, etc.)

<http://www.ipmimages.org/> (Searchable images)

Pesticide information:

<http://entweb.clemson.edu/pesticid/> (Applicator information, etc.)

<http://www.cdms.net/manuf/manuf.asp?t=1> (Labels)

### **Sampling Supplies for Insects**

If you need a drop cloth, a sweep net, magnifying lenses, traps, lures, or any other type of equipment to use for sampling insects, try one of the following websites for entomological supplies:

<http://www.gemplers.com/pest-mgmt>

<http://www.bioquip.com/>

<http://www.trece.com/>

<http://www.herconenviron.com/products.stm>

<http://www.forestry-suppliers.com/>

<http://www.greatlakesipm.com/>



**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



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

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