



Cotton Insect Newsletter

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Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

3 July 2008

Status of Cotton Crop

The weather continues to be the big story. Thank the good Lord that we have not been above or near 100 degrees in recent days. It remains bone dry in most areas – if we had extremely hot temperatures to go with the lack of precipitation, we would be in worse shape. As of 29 June 2008, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 25% squaring, behind the 5-yr average of 41%. None of the state’s cotton crop was reported to be in excellent condition. The remainder was reported as 12% good, 54% fair, 21% poor, and 13% very poor. About 2% of the crop is setting bolls, equal to the 5-yr average of 2%. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

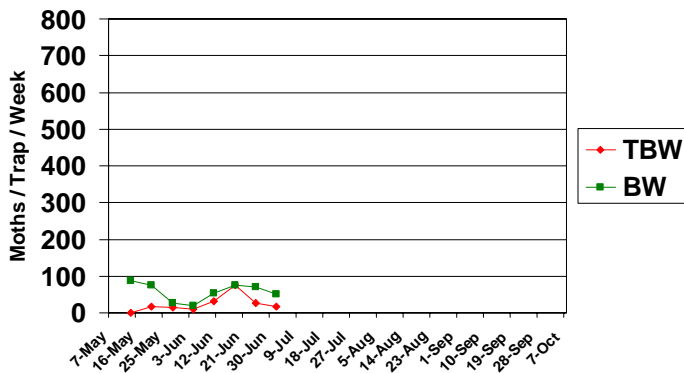
Tobacco Budworm & Bollworm

Captures of adult tobacco budworm (TBW) and bollworm (BW) in pheromone traps at EREC for this season and last season are pictured below. The scales on the 2008 and 2007 charts are the same to illustrate where we are compared with last year. If bollworm numbers this year are similar to those of last year, and I don’t see why they would not be, I would expect that we will see another week of similar trap captures before getting on an upward trend for bollworm. That will very likely coincide with the first few weeks of bloom in many locations.

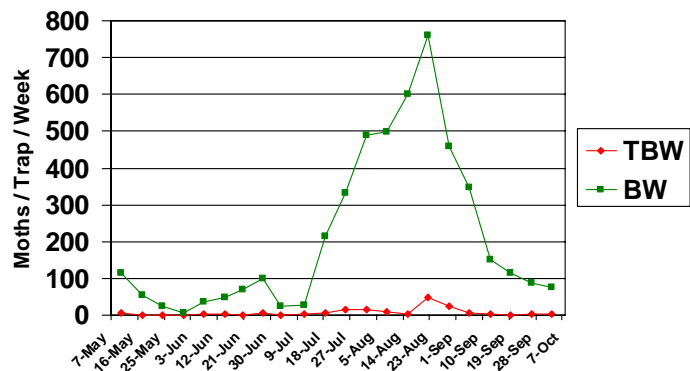


Bollworm (left) and tobacco budworm (right)

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!

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Label Updates

Here is the official stance of Dow AgroSciences on the use of Ignite herbicide in WideStrike cotton:

Glufosinate Ammonium Herbicide and WideStrike® Cotton Varieties

- The PAT gene (which confers a level of tolerance to glufosinate ammonium (GA) herbicides) is the selectable marker in WideStrike cotton varieties.
- The tolerance to GA herbicides provided by the PAT gene in WideStrike® is not equivalent to the GA herbicide tolerance of LibertyLink® cotton.
- While Ignite® herbicide is labeled for certain post-emergent use in non-tolerant cotton, over- the- top application of GA herbicides on WideStrike cotton varieties may result in crop damage and loss.
- **PhytoGen and Dow AgroSciences do not recommend or warrant the use of GA herbicides on WideStrike cotton.**
- **All risk of crop damage and loss associated with the use of GA herbicides on WideStrike cotton remains solely with the user.**

Survey for Cotton Incorporated

On 15 July 2008, various cotton producers will receive a request from Cotton Incorporated to participate in an anonymous online Natural Resource Survey to gather information that only cotton producers can provide. The survey will ask for your assistance in promoting U.S. cotton by identifying the great strides that cotton farmers have made in production efficiency. Cotton Incorporated intends to use the summarized data from the information provided to promote U.S. cotton and to direct future research. They want to show the global textile industry, brands, retailers, and consumers the true extent of cotton's stewardship of the environment. They will ask you to take the survey, which should take about 20 minutes, only once and only if you have production responsibility for a cotton farming operation. Your input will be anonymous. I took the survey as a test, and it was not difficult and did not take much time to complete.

Stink Bugs

I continue to hear that stink bugs are very numerous in drying corn and early cotton south of here and into Georgia. Because events usually progress from the South to the North when referring to insects, we should keep our "ear to the ground" for any news of this kind. It remains so dry that insects are forced onto cultivated plants that can be more tolerant to harsh environmental conditions than wild plants because we irrigate (some acreage), fertilize, and optimize growth in general. Insects are generally attracted to lush, healthy plants. Our current situation is one that is setting up for problems with stink bugs if it starts raining. If it does not start raining soon, bugs will not be a problem – it will not matter anyway.

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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>

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.
Cotton Entomologist



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

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