



## Cotton Insect Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue #10

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

17 July 2008

### Status of Cotton Crop

As of 13 July 2008, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 58% squaring, behind the 5-yr average of 70%. About 12% of the crop is setting bolls, just behind the 5-yr average of 14%. Only 1% of the state's cotton crop was reported to be in excellent condition. The remainder was reported as 27% good, 39% fair, 21% poor, and 12% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

### Status of Soybean Crop

As of 14 July 2008, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our conditions for soybeans at 21% very poor, 24% poor, 34% fair, 20% good, and 1% excellent.

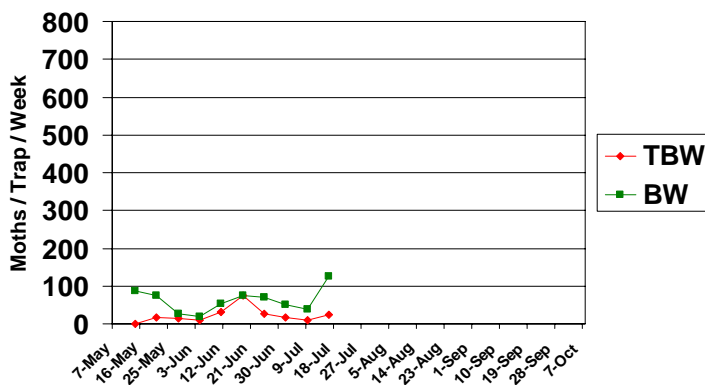
### Tobacco Budworm & Bollworm

Captures of adult tobacco budworm (TBW) and bollworm (BW) in pheromone traps at EREC 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. As you can see, we are observing increasing bollworm captures – on schedule with that observed during 2007.

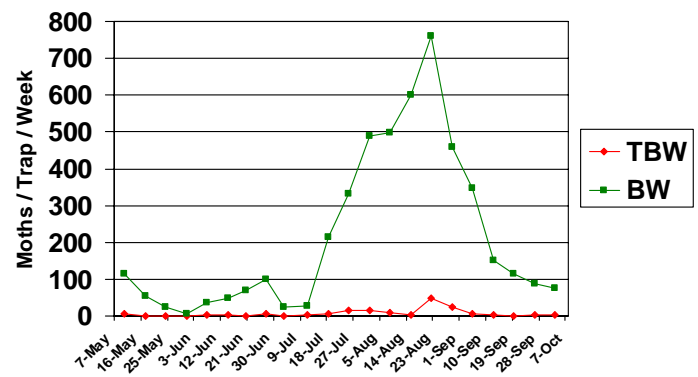


Bollworm (left) and tobacco budworm (right)

Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2008 (EREC)



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2007 (EREC)



### News from Below the Lakes

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

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### News from Above the Lakes

**\*Soybean Scouting School\*** We hope you can join us next Wednesday (23 July) at the SC Cotton Museum in Bishopville at 8:30 AM for a soybean scouting school. We will go to a local field for the hands-on school where we will identify insects, diseases, etc. There is no charge, and a sponsored meal will be provided, but we do need those planning to attend to contact us. Please contact Randy Cabbage (office: 803-484-5416; email: [RCBBGE@EXCHANGE.CLEMSON.EDU](mailto:RCBBGE@EXCHANGE.CLEMSON.EDU)) if you plan to attend. We will adjourn with lunch. 3 CCH credits.

### Stink Bugs & Plant Bugs

We continue to see and hear about plant bugs and stink bugs in cotton. Most of the crop is blooming and setting bolls, so we should be particularly vigilant in our scouting for bugs. Plant bugs are primarily a problem in cotton from a couple of weeks before blooming starts through the first couple of weeks of bloom. Some fields have reached threshold for plant bugs, particularly those surrounded by corn, and have already been treated. As you know, stink bugs typically take over after the first two weeks of bloom. We have had early populations of stink bugs in many areas this season. Our research to date has shown that the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> weeks of bloom are important weeks to monitor and control stink bugs in cotton. I would encourage you to be more aggressive (10-20% boll injury) with your scouting and spraying during those weeks of bloom. Because bollworms are on the way (or here in some cases), I would encourage use of pyrethroids for control of bugs right now. In fields where brown stink bugs are the predominant problem, consider tank-mixing something like 4 oz of Bidrin or 0.5 pint of methyl parathion, but make sure that you really need to treat before the bollworm flight gets heavy.

### “Instant – View” Threshold Guide

The table below summarizes threshold recommendations for the common insect pests of cotton that we will be dealing with for the remainder of the season. These are suggested control guidelines based on research, but they are subject to adjustment based upon the situation encountered. Remember to use things like field history, growth/yield potential, spray records, other pests present, and wise insecticide choices before treating any field.

<b>Insect</b>	<b>Number per unit</b>
Stink bug (SB)	1 SB per 6 row feet or 20% injury to medium-sized bolls
Plant bug (PB)	1 PB per row foot; <80% square retention with PB present
Bollworm (BW) <i>1<sup>st</sup> generation Bt cotton</i>	>1 <sup>st</sup> bloom: 75 eggs, 30 small (<0.25 inch) or 3 larger (>0.25 inch) larvae per 100 plants, or 5% damaged bolls
Bollworm <i>2<sup>nd</sup> generation Bt cotton</i>	No threshold using eggs or small larvae; >1 <sup>st</sup> bloom: 3 or more larger (>0.25 inch) larvae per 100 plants or 5% damaged bolls
Bollworm <i>Non-Bt cotton</i>	>1 <sup>st</sup> bloom: 20 or more eggs or 3 small (<0.25 inch) larvae per 100 plants or 5% damaged squares
Tobacco budworm (TBW) <i>Non-Bt cotton only – not found in Bt cotton</i>	<1 <sup>st</sup> bloom: 15 small (<0.25 inch) larvae per 100 plants or 20% damaged squares; >1 <sup>st</sup> bloom: 20 eggs or 3 small larvae per 100 plants or 5% damaged squares
Fall armyworm (FAW)	10 or more per 100 plants, checking blooms and bolls
Spider mites	50% of plants infested with actively growing colonies present

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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



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