



Cotton Insect Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue #11

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

24 July 2008

Status of Cotton Crop

As of 20 July 2008, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 80% squaring, just behind the 5-yr average of 82%. About 30% of the crop is setting bolls, just ahead of the 5-yr average of 27%. Only 1% of the state's cotton crop was reported to be in excellent condition. The remainder was reported as 29% good, 39% fair, 23% poor, and 8% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Status of Soybean Crop

As of 21 July 2008, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our conditions for soybeans at 22% very poor, 23% poor, 35% fair, 19% good, and 1% excellent.

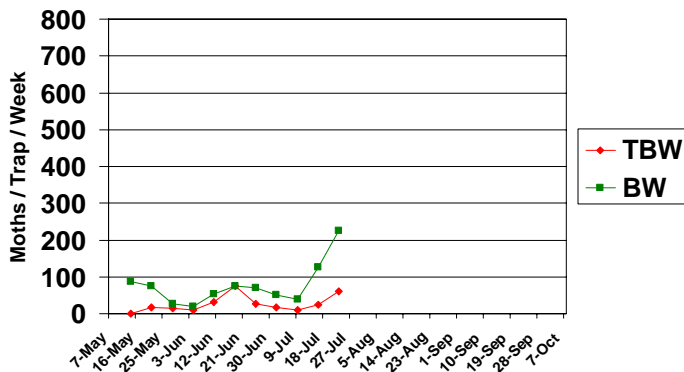
Tobacco Budworm & Bollworm

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. Numbers of TBW are increasing again – this is important only for acres of non-Bt cotton. As a side note, the supply of Tracer (spinosad), commonly used as a standard for control of TBW in cotton, is very limited (almost non-existent at distributors).

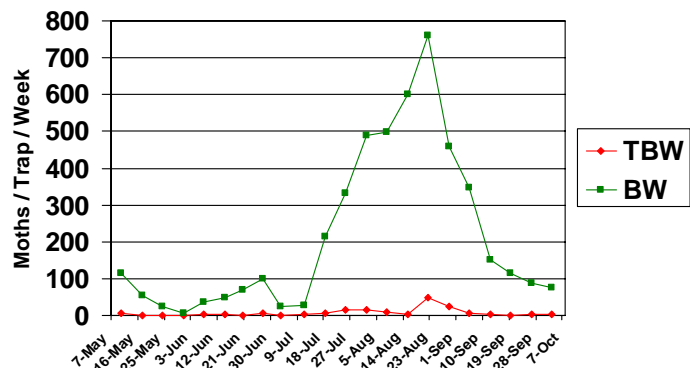


Bollworm (left) and tobacco budworm (right)

Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2008 (EREC)



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2007 (EREC)



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Fall Field Day

Our annual Fall Field Day will be held at the Edisto Research and Education Center near Blackville, SC, on 4 September 2007. Registration will begin at 9:00AM. Tours and programs will begin at 9:30AM. Lunch will be from 12:00 to 1:15PM. The cotton/soybean/corn program will be immediately after lunch (1:30-3:30PM). An early copy of the program will be available and distributed soon.

News from Below the Lakes

Two consultants in the local area are telling me that all of their acres are getting sprayed this week. They are targeting stink bugs/plant bugs that are causing threshold levels of boll injury. Most of those fields are in the 3rd-4th week of bloom. Most non-Bt cotton is getting treated for the second time this week. Moth flushes in those fields are helping to determine what chemistry to use. Most of the moths were bollworm this week, so they are going with a pyrethroid to control bollworm and stink bugs.

News from Above the Lakes

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

Who's on Top?

Just in case you are interested in "who is on top", in terms of chemical and seed companies and sales figures, see the charts below with data from 2007. These are the companies that spend a tremendous amount of money on registrations, research and development, and quality assurance for the agriculture products we have now and for the products that we will use in the future. (Adapted from www.meisterpro.com)

Top 12 Crop Protection Companies

Rank	Company	2007 Sales (millions \$USD)
1	Bayer CropScience	\$7,447
2	Syngenta	\$7,285
3	BASF	\$4,291
4	Monsanto	\$3,753
5	Dow AgroSciences	\$3,414
6	DuPont Crop Protection	\$2,400
7	MAI	\$1,895
8	Nufarm Ltd.	\$1,891
9	Sumitomo Chemical	\$1,248
10	Arysta	\$1,036
11	FMC	\$890
12	Cheminova	\$721

Top 10 Seed Companies

Rank	Company	2007 Sales (millions \$USD)
1	Monsanto	\$5,120
2	DuPont	\$3,325
3	Syngenta	\$2,018
4	Limagrain	\$1,225
5	KWS Ag	\$702
6	Bayer CropScience	\$523
7	DLF Trifolium	\$410
8	Dow AgroSciences	\$365
9	Takii	\$344
10	AgReliant Genetics	\$311

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Spider Mites

Another pest to be watchful for right now is one that can sneak up on you if you are not paying attention to them – spider mites. Spider mites rather enjoy the overall hot and dry conditions we and the crop face everyday. Although we are getting scattered thunderstorms that bring temporary relief, we certainly fit that description right now. Control decisions for spider mites can be difficult or easy. When infestations are active and building on at least 50% of plants, we recommend treatment for spider mites. Below are several options for chemical control of spider mites, but there are at least a few things to consider before spraying for mites in cotton. Miticides are expensive, and control is usually good and not excellent. Also, if a “sure-thing” rain event is in the forecast, a good rain can often wash off and alleviate problems with spider mites. If rain is looming, wait to check the field after the rain. There is also a natural fungus that attacks spider mites very similar to what we see with aphids. All that said, watch for spider mites, along with stink bugs and bollworm.

SPIDER MITES

Product	Product/acre	Lb ai/acre	Acre/gal	REI	PHI	Comments
chlorpyrifos (R) Lorsban 4 E Nufos 4 E	16 oz 16 oz	0.5	8 8	24 hr	14 d	
bifenthrin (R) Capture 2 EC Discipline 2 EC Brigade 2 EC Fanfare 2 EC	3.8-6.4 oz 3.8-6.4 oz 3.8-6.4 oz 3.8-6.4 oz	0.06-0.1	20-33.7 20-33.7 20-33.7 20-33.7	12 hr	14 d	Higher rates usually required for adequate control
dicofol Kelthane 4 MF	1.0-1.5 qt	1.0-1.5	2.7-4	12 hr	30 d	Max of 2 applications
propargite Comite 6.55 Comite II 6	16-32 oz 20-36 oz	0.82-1.69	4-8 3.55-6.4	7 d	50 d	Do not apply until plants are 12 in tall
spiromesifen Oberon 2 SC	8-16 oz	0.125-0.25	8-16	12 hr	30 d	32 oz limit per season
etoxazole Zeal 72.7 WSP	0.66-1.0 oz	0.03-0.045	-	12 hr	28 d	Max of 1 application
abamectin (R) Zephyr 0.15 EC Zoro 0.15 EC	8-16 oz 8-16 oz			12 hr	20 d	32 oz limit per season – 21 days between applications

Infestations of spider mites usually appear in border rows of a field or sometimes in isolated spots within a field. When mites first appear, treating border rows or spot treating may prevent outbreaks.



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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<http://www.clemson.edu>

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