



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue #5

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

4 June 2009

Pest Patrol Hotline

A summary of current problems with insects is available this season via a toll-free hotline. Simply call the free number (877) 285-8525 and select the messages you would like to hear. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

Cotton Situation

As of 1 June 2009, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 87% of the crop being planted, slightly behind where we were last year at 90% and for the 5-yr average of 91%. Conditions were described as 3% excellent, 60% good, 33% fair, 3% poor, and 1% very poor for the crop. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Soybean Situation

As of 1 June 2009, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 44% of the crop being planted, well behind where we were at 58% in 2008 and the 5-yr average of 55%. About 32% of soybeans have emerged, a little behind where the crop was this time last year at 38% and slightly ahead of the 5-yr average emergence of 30%. Conditions were described as 3% excellent, 83% good, and 14% fair. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

News from Above the Lakes

Randy Cabbage, county agent in Lee County, reported that “in our few acres of cotton crop this season, we have had at least one farmer have to replant several fields of cotton due to sloughing off of plants from soil borne diseases. We took a count and he would only have had 40% of a reasonable stand to work with if he had kept it. It didn’t average a plant per foot of good plants. Some thrips are around but nothing alarming yet.”

News from Below the Lakes

Charles Davis, county agent in Calhoun/Orangeburg Counties, reported that he “received a call this past weekend about hundreds of grasshoppers emerging... checked a number of fields this afternoon [Monday] and could find hoppers around the edges, but no apparent damage in the fields yet. Looks like the hatch just started last week, so we might see more damage next week.”

A consultant in the area sprayed 150 acres of Bollgard II cotton this week for thrips. Plants were in the 4-leaf stage of growth, but they are old enough to have gone through the cold snap we had, so they were delayed in development. They were going over the field with a glyphosate application and put some acephate in the tank. This is a good lead into the next topic...

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When to Stop Spraying for Thrips

Tobacco thrips, *Frankliniella fusca*, is the predominant species encountered in cotton in South Carolina. This species and other thrips feed on leaves and terminals of seedling plants, thereby stunting growth and delaying maturity. Damaged leaves appear crinkled on top, and lower surfaces will often have a silvery sheen. Leaf margins become cupped and terminal buds may be destroyed. If thrips are causing stunting and eventual delayed maturity, a foliar insecticide is likely needed. However, cotton has the ability to outgrow damage at a certain point, especially when temperatures are adequately warm and growing conditions are very good (as they are now). Historically, we have not seen a significant benefit from spraying cotton for thrips at or after the 5th-leaf stage. Cotton becomes more tolerant to thrips injury with every true leaf that is added. So, “revenge spraying” for thrips might make you feel better, but consider all aspects (soil moisture, high and low temperatures, growth stage of plants, ratio of growth stage of thrips present [immature or adults], overall pressure from thrips, etc.) before you make insecticide applications around or after the 4th true leaf. Finally, it is tempting to put some insecticide in the tank because the stand looks bad and you are going over the field to spray herbicide anyway. Keep in mind that, in addition to very possibly not returning anything for the money after the 4-5th leaf, spraying for thrips too late puts you at risk for developing problems with aphids and spider mites. Additional stress from these arthropods early on cotton can be made worse with unneeded sprays.

THRIPS (FOLIAR SPRAYS)

Product	Product/acre	Lb ai/acre	Acre/gal	REI	PHI	Comments
dicrotophos (R) Bidrin 8 E	1.6-3.2 oz	0.1-0.2	40-80	6 d	30 d	3.2 oz limit pre-square
acephate Orthene 97 Orthene 90 S Acephate 90 S	2.5-3.0 oz 2.67-3.2 oz 2.67-3.2 oz	0.15-0.18	- - -	24 hr	21 d	
dimethoate Dimethoate 4 EC	4-8 oz	0.125-0.25	16-32	48 hr	14 d	
methamidophos (R) Monitor 4 EC	3.2-6.4 oz	0.1-0.2	20-40	48 hr	50 d	Not made after 2009

Generally a soil insecticide used at planting will protect seedling plants from the severe stunting that is characteristic of thrips injury. Occasionally, however, conditions will be unfavorable for proper uptake of systemic insecticides (too cool, dry soil, excessive moisture, etc.) and plants can be severely damaged. **Foliar treatments will be most effective when applied to cotton seedlings prior to unfolding of the second true leaf.** At this growth stage a foliar insecticide treatment may be needed when two or more thrips are found per plant. Shake each plant (randomly select 25 or more) into a coffee cup or a similar utensil to facilitate counting. When most plants have severely damaged growing points and immature thrips are present, one or more foliar treatments may be needed to allow the plants to resume normal growth and development. Examine plants 5-7 days after the initial treatment, and treat again if immatures are still present on most plants. When the newly unfolded leaves of infested plants are free of damage, and plants appear to be growing at a normal rate, further

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applications of insecticides will have little benefit. Treatments applied beyond the four-leaf stage of growth may actually be counterproductive, as these would likely reduce beneficial populations and result in early-season problems with other pests.

Tobacco Budworm & Bollworm

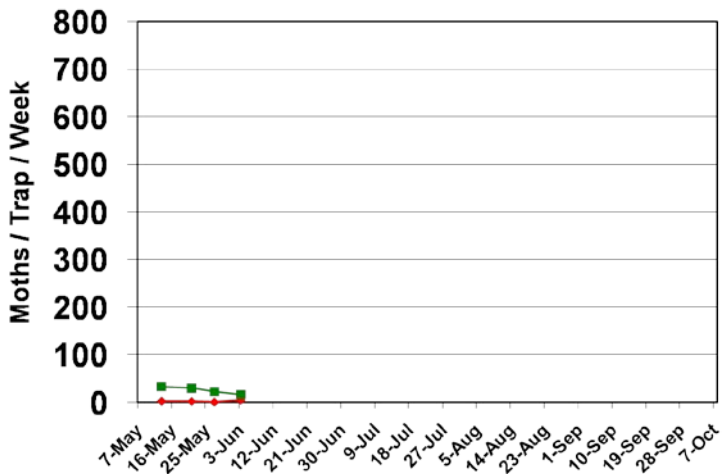
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) in pheromone traps at EREC this season and last seasons are presented. compared with last year. That is a little



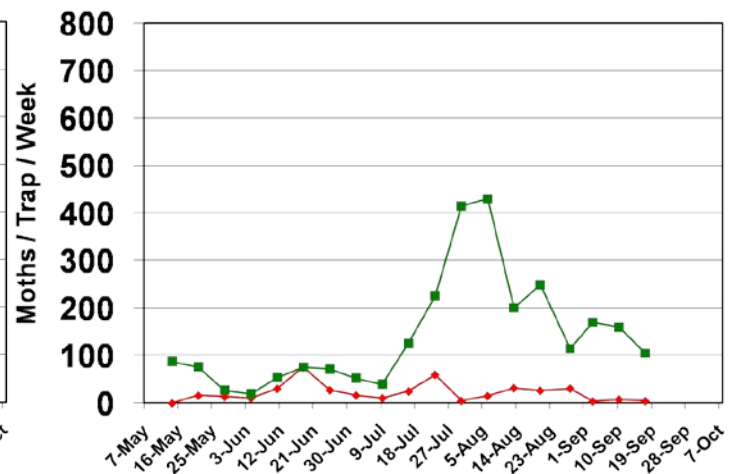
The scales on the charts are the same to illustrate where we are We trapped about 17 BW and 5.5 TBW moths per trap this past down from last week for BW and up for TBW. I would imagine that we would see BW numbers start to increase in the coming weeks and probably peak near the end of July as we have for years. These numbers still serve as indicators of moth activity and offer some predictive value locally as to when we might start seeing problems with caterpillars in the field. Bollworm will continue to be important for 2009 and 2010, until we stop planting single-Bt-gene Bollgard varieties such as DP555. Although replacement dual-Bt-gene technology is very good on caterpillar insects, it is not 100% on bollworm or fall armyworm. We will still have to look for them, and consultants will be needed more than ever because of that and the shift of importance to stink bugs in our area of the country.



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2009



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2008



CORRECTION FOR LAST WEEK

“How Late Can We Plant Cotton (& Soybeans)?”

In last week’s newsletter I reported on insurance dates for cotton and soybeans. The cotton information was correct, but the planting window for coverage for soybeans was incorrectly stated as a 15-day period when it is actually a 25-day window. The last date to plant soybeans without a penalty on insurance coverage is 15 June, with 25-day window for 1% loss/day. When you get past 10 July, your crop insurance coverage for soybeans is void.

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2009 SC Cotton Growers' Guide, Pest Management Handbook, and Insect Control Guides

The 2009 South Carolina Cotton Growers' Guide is available from your local county office in paper copy or online at: <http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/AGRO/EC589.PDF>.

The 2009 Pest Management Handbook is ready and available in limited quantities. Contact your local county office for availability. A \$10 fee might be charged for the handbook. You can also download the handbook from: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/index.html>

Clemson University Publications IC97 (Cotton Insect Management) and SL1 (Soybean Insect Management) are available free from your local county office in paper copy or online at: <http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/ENTOM/IC97.PDF> and <http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/AGRO/SL1.PDF>

Need More Information?

Log on to the following webpage to view important recommendations for cotton and soybean insect management, data, and historical cotton insect newsletters:

<http://www.clemson.edu/edisto/cotton/cotton.htm>

Sincerely,

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