



Cotton Insect Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue #2

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

17 May 2007

*****REMINDER*****

COTTON SCOUT SCHOOLS 2008

THERE WILL BE NO SCOUT SCHOOLS THIS YEAR

Newsletter Update

This is the second cotton insect newsletter of 2007. If you missed the first one, it is archived at <http://www.clemson.edu/edisto/cotton/cotton.htm>, along with newsletters from last season. Please distribute copies of this newsletter to all interested parties, and please provide input for the newsletter. There are many more eyes out there than mine, so if you see something interesting in the cotton field concerning insects or anything else, let me know about it. Send me your comments or pictures (pictures speak volumes, right?), and I will include them, providing you with credit for the observations.

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Crop Situation

The current situation has changed very little. We have had spotty rain and not enough of that – it remains dry in most places. I see planted fields and rows of seedling cotton, so we have enough moisture in many places to get germination and a stand, but it had better start raining soon. The NASS had us at about 36% planted at 13 May 2007, behind the 5-yr average of 48%.

News from Above the Lakes

Dr. Francis Reay-Jones, our Extension Entomologist in Florence at PDREC, had the following comments about the situation above the lakes last week – “Some cotton has just started to emerge – I was out this morning in a cotton field in Darlington Co., where 65-70% of the cotton has been planted (according to Earl Dudley). In Lee Co., according to a consultant, 50% of the cotton has been planted for the moment and only a total of 15,000 ac this year (soybean and corn planted instead). Vic Bethea says less than 28,000 ac is planted in Marlboro Co. (down from 34,000 last year). Mitch Binnarr said today that growers should check planting depth, especially if corn has been previously planted (he had a grower yesterday who was planting at 2 inches – planter was set for corn).”

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News from Below the Lakes

No news to report this week. This is your turn for input – send your comments and observations to me.

Printed Cotton Insect Recommendations

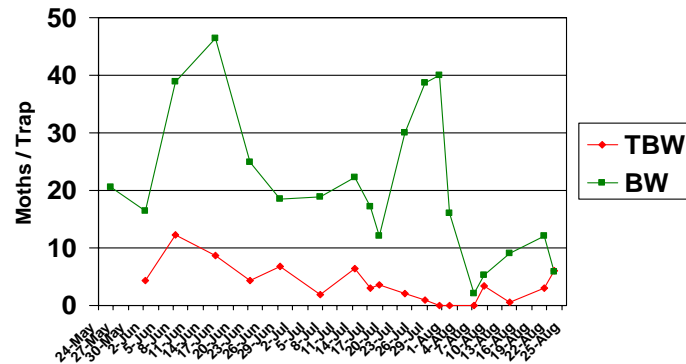
Copies of the newly revised “Cotton Insect Management” (IC 97) recommendations are available at your local county office. You can visit the following website for an electronic version of the recommendations:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/ENTOM/IC97.PDF>

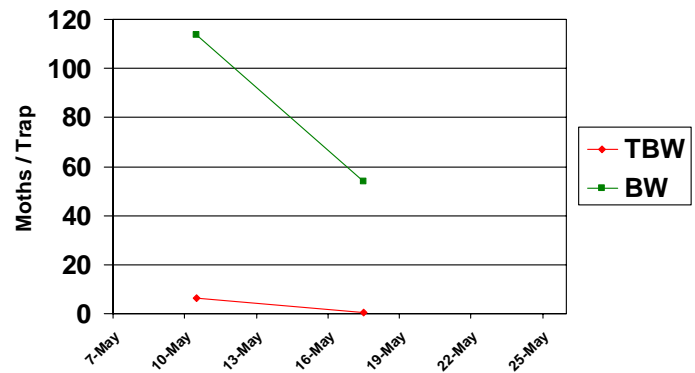
Tobacco Budworm & Bollworm

Initial captures of bollworm and tobacco budworm in pheromone traps at EREC during 2007 are interesting. Trap captures were high for bollworm and low for tobacco budworm after the first week in May. We will likely see heavy bollworm (corn earworm) numbers this season due to the increased acreage planted to corn. Below are the trap captures from 2006 (left) and beginning numbers for 2007 (right). *Note: scales are different.*

Pheromone Trap Capture (EREC - 2006)



Pheromone Trap Capture (EREC - 2007)



Thrips

The weather situation is never static. It is going to be cool for a few days before it goes back to being warm, and hot days are not far away. As you know, cotton becomes more susceptible to injury from thrips under cool conditions, so let’s keep an eye on it closely as it comes out of the ground and moves through the seedling stage. Be sure to check for thrips on emerged cotton, especially during the cotyledon stage and 1st couple of true leaves. I like to use a big white plastic or foam cup to sample for thrips in the field. I do this by quickly pulling a plant and shaking it upside down in the cup, hitting the plant on the sides of the cup. You dislodge thrips into the cup where they can easily be seen and counted. The white color allows you to see even the smallest immatures (if you look closely). Pull multiple plants (at least 5-10 in several spots), and repeat the counts. Pay particular attention to the numbers of immature thrips. The numbers of nymphs really indicate performance of your preventative treatment for thrips (Avicta Complete Pak, Temik, Aerus, Gaucho Grande, Cruiser, in-furrow sprays, etc.). If you end up with 2-5 thrips (most immatures) per plant with visible injury to

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the growing points of plants, the field will likely require treatment with insecticide. **DO NOT SPRAY ON INJURY SYMPTOMS ONLY.** Make sure you check for active populations of thrips before treating. You may be observing old damage to the plants! Under cooler conditions, it takes a little more time to “grow out” of that injury. Also, we see very little benefit from insecticide applications made for thrips after the 4th true leaf. There are several materials available that provide adequate control of thrips. Those include Orthene or acephate (2.5-3.2 oz/a), Bidrin (1.6-3.2 oz/a), Dimethoate (4-8 oz/a), and others. If needed, treatment with insecticide usually provides enough time for cotton to “outgrow” thrips.

False Chinch Bugs Again?

Burndown applications were made some time ago, but some must have been made not too long ago. We had calls about bugs on young cotton last year that turned out to be false chinch bugs. They feed on weeds and when those weeds overlap too closely with planted cotton, this insect can be a problem. They simply move from the sprayed/drying weed hosts to the cotton. The immatures present, often in high numbers, do not have a choice but to feed on the only “green thing” in the field. Burndown applications should be moved further away from planting dates to avoid problems with false chinch bugs. Here in South Carolina, false chinch bugs are susceptible to various insecticide chemistries, so many materials will work (pyrethroids, acephate, etc.). However, they are resistant to most insecticides in the Mid-south, so be aware that efficacy can change at any point, especially if late burndowns persist and populations of this insect continue to be exposed to insecticides. See Newsletter # 3 (18 May 2006) from last year for additional information on false chinch bugs.

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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