



Cotton Insect Newsletter

Letter #11

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

13 July 2006

Newsletter Archives

Previous newsletters for 2006 are archived at <http://www.clemson.edu/edisto/cotton/cotton.htm>. Please distribute hard copies or electronic newsletter files to all interested, and please provide weekly input for the newsletter. Your observations and local knowledge are important – email or phone in your comments to me!

Jeremy Greene

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Crop Situation

On 9 July 2006, the NASS reported our progress as 73% squaring, ahead of the 5-yr average of 63%. About 13% of the crop is setting bolls, just ahead of the 5-yr average of 12%. About 8% of the state's cotton crop was reported to be in excellent condition. The remainder was reported as 51% good, 31% fair, 10% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

News from Above the Lakes

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

News from Below the Lakes

Dr. Mike Sullivan reported today that he is seeing aphids everywhere, but that he is inclined not to treat specifically for them. In Orangeburg County, he had one field at 22% infection from the fungus that attacks aphids – reported from the free detection service provided by cotton incorporated:

<http://www.cottoninc.com/Entomology/CottonAphidFungusSamplingService/?S=AgriculturalResearch&Sort=0>

That level is enough where the recommendation is “NOT TO TREAT”. He had another field come in at 8% infection, so things could happen quickly with the aphid fungus on a large scale.

Tobacco Budworm & Bollworm

Trap captures were again low at the Edisto Research & Education Center near Blackville, SC. Dr. Mike Sullivan reported that he caught 32 moths per trap per week for bollworm and less than 10 per trap for tobacco budworm in Bamberg County. As you all know, this low level of pressure is more difficult to deal with than if we have distinct flights to control. It is much easier to “pull the trigger” when numbers are high. Seems like we have already had a lot of “head scratching” this year, and it is still relatively early in the season, unless it doesn't rain soon.

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Stink Bugs & Plant Bugs

Stink bugs are still building, but the thing to look for right now is plant bugs. In a couple of fields with Tommy Walker this week near Estill, we were running 2 per foot of row. That was too many. The fruit retention was lower than it should have been, so the fields were treated. Our threshold for plant bugs in cotton is 1 per row foot to 1 per 3 row feet, whichever you are more comfortable using. Action thresholds for stink bugs are to treat with insecticide at 1 bug per 6 row feet or when 20% of medium-sized bolls display internal signs of feeding (warts, stained lint/seed) and stink bugs are observed. Use a drop cloth to detect bugs (the black cloths are better for finding plant bugs, and the white are probably better for finding stink bugs), and pull bolls for internal examination.

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>

To see cotton insect newsletters for this year, go to the following webpage to view the cotton page at the Edisto Research & Education Center. <http://www.clemson.edu/edisto/cotton/cotton.htm>

We will continue to update this webpage in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.
Cotton Entomologist



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