



## Cotton Insect Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue #16

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

23 August 2007

### Newsletter Update

I terminated the newsletter about this time last year. Unless we have significant developments during the next week, this might be the final cotton insect newsletter this season. We will see – I might send it one more time next week. I hope that the newsletter has been timely and of use to you. If you have any specific comments, suggestions, or “praises”, please email them to me to help me evaluate the newsletter.

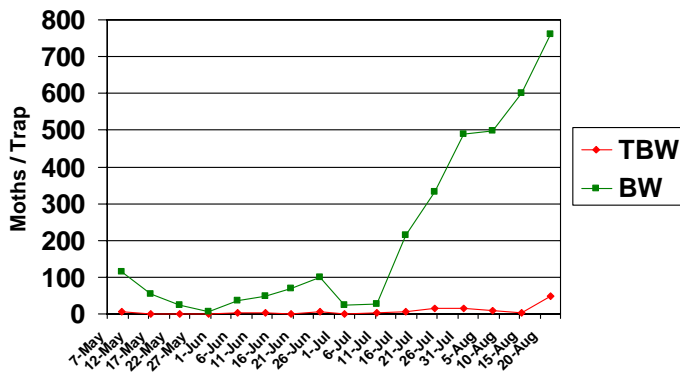
### Crop Situation

As of 19 August 2007, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 82% setting bolls, just behind the 5-yr average of 86%. About 4% of the bolls are opening, behind the 5-yr average of 9%. About 1% of the state’s cotton crop was reported to be in excellent condition. The remainder was reported as 20% good, 41% fair, 24% poor, and 14% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

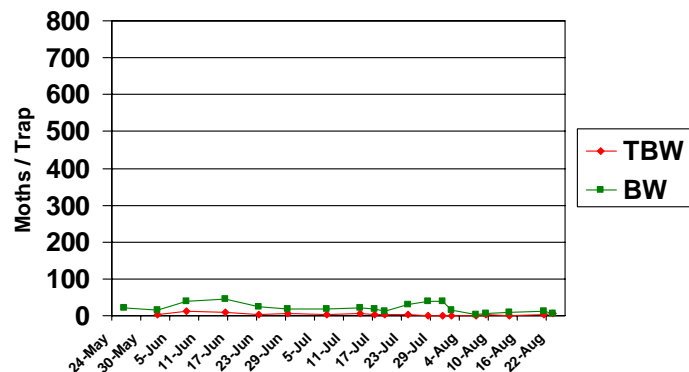
### Tobacco Budworm & Bollworm

Captures of adult tobacco budworm and bollworm in pheromone traps at EREC for this season and last season are pictured below. We detected increased numbers of tobacco budworm moths this past week (49/trap/wk). Captures of bollworm moths continued to increase. The scales on the 2007 and 2006 charts are the same and demonstrate how much larger our bollworm numbers continue to be this year compared with last year. The numbers from this past week are about 15 times higher than our highest weekly capture all of last year. It remains very easy to see bollworm moths flying everywhere in cotton this week. You can still find numerous eggs in irrigated cotton.

Pheromone Trap Capture (EREC - 2007)



Pheromone Trap Capture (EREC - 2006)



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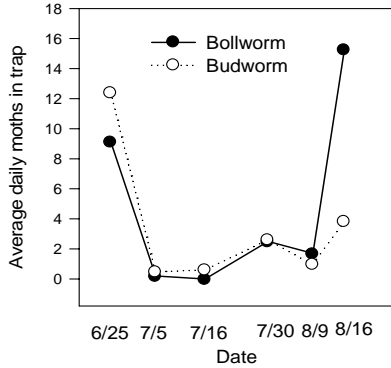
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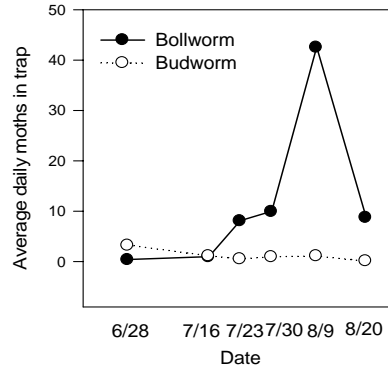
News from Above the Lakes

Dr. Francis Reay-Jones reported the updated captures of bollworm moths in traps he has run near the Florence area. Trap catches of adult tobacco budworm and bollworm in pheromone traps in the Pee Dee area for this season are pictured below. Traps were set up in June and will continue to be monitored above the lakes.

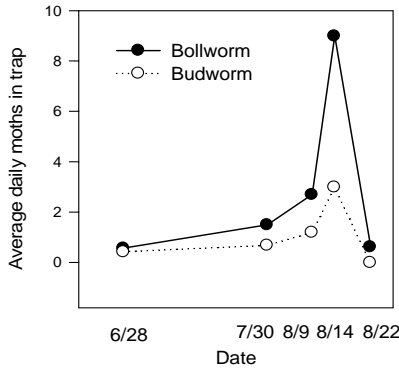
Pee Dee REC, Darlington Co.



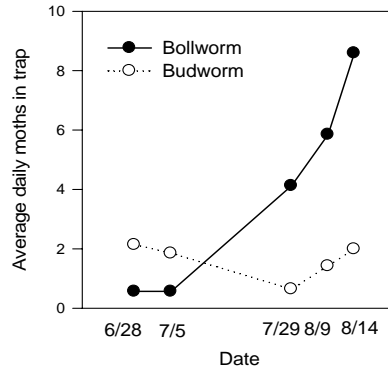
Florence Co.



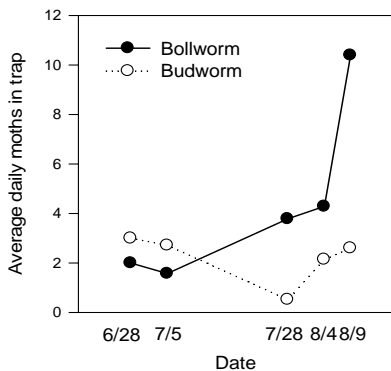
Lee Co.



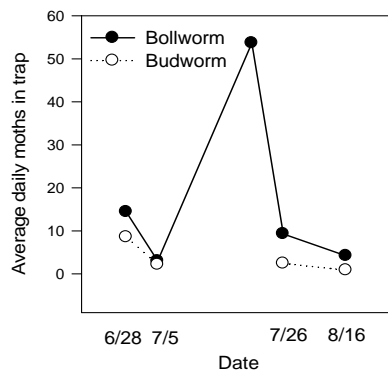
Marion Co.



Dillon Co.



Marlboro Co.



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### **News from Below the Lakes**

I am hearing reports that dryland cotton is finished in many places. Irrigated fields are still being checked. Populations of stink bugs continue to build in late-planted cotton that received rains or is irrigated. Fall armyworms and stink bugs are about all that might need attention now.

### **Terminating Insecticide Use**

See this link (<http://www.clemson.edu/edisto/cotton/newsletter-082406.pdf>) for last year's section on this. It is worth repeating. Except for late-planted fields and some irrigated acres, most of the crop should be at physiological cutout now or past that point and have accumulated many heat units (HU). Our physiological cutout is most likely at about 4 Nodes Above [the highest 1<sup>st</sup> position] White Flower (NAWF). Many fields are "blooming out the top" and are far past that point. After cutout at 4NAWF, heat unit accumulation can be used to terminate inputs. For example, at 350 HU after cutout, insecticide inputs for bollworm can be terminated without significant risk of yield loss. If you are not familiar with accumulation of heat units, you simply take the average temperature for each day after 4NAWF and subtract 60 from it. The resulting number is the heat unit count for the day. Let's look at a quick example. Late in the day on 8 August, it was determined, after examining plants and counting nodes on a number of plants, that field #5 was at 4NAWF. On 9 August, the high temperature was 98°F and the low temperature was 74°F, so the average temperature was 86°F. Subtracting 60 from 86 is 26, so 26 HU were accumulated on the first day following cutout. You do that until you reach predetermined points of HU accumulation. In this example, if identical high and low temperatures persisted for some time, it would take about 13.5 days to reach 350 HU past cutout. So, roughly two weeks after 9 August (that would be on 23 August), insecticide use for bollworm could be terminated on field #5. The termination points for other insects are different. You want to accumulate about 500 HU for stink bugs. Using our example field #5 above and identical temperatures for additional days, it would take an additional week to be safe from stink bugs (19-20 days after cutout, making it the end of August). Research has also been conducted on termination points for irrigation and timing for defoliation. In summary, counting nodes above the highest 1<sup>st</sup> position white flower (NAWF) is a quick and easy way to define where the crop is in growth stage and how much longer various inputs should be continued.

### **Fall Field Day**

This is another reminder that you are invited to our Fall Field Day at the Edisto Research and Education Center near Blackville, SC, on 6 September 2007. Registration will begin at 9:00AM. Tours and programs will begin at 9:30AM. Lunch will be from 12:00 to 1:00PM. The cotton/soybean program will be immediately after lunch. <http://www.clemson.edu/newsroom/articles/2007/august/Fall-Field-Day-at-Edisto-REC.php5>

### **Printed Cotton Insect Recommendations**

Copies of "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>



### **Need More Information?**

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

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

<http://www.clemson.edu/scg/ipm/cotton.html>

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.

Cotton Entomologist

[green4@clemson.edu](mailto:green4@clemson.edu)

803-284-3343 (office)

803-300-1160 (mobile)



Visit our website at:

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