# *Cotton Insect Newsletter*

**Letter #17** **Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC** **24 August 2006**

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********* LAST NEWSLETTER FOR 2006 *********

This will be the final newsletter for 2006, unless something drastic happens. Things are finishing fast in cotton, and insect problems should be greatly reduced on most of our acreage by next week. If something happens in cotton or soybeans in the next few weeks, I will distribute updates via email. Thanks for a good "first" season in SC. I am glad to be home. I hope that the newsletter was timely and informative for you all. See you during the winter months. Bring on the cooler weather!

## *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!

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## *Crop Situation*

On 20 August 2006, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office reported our progress at about 87% of the crop setting bolls, equal to the 5-yr average. About 5% of the crop has open bolls, behind the 5-yr average of 10%. About 4% of the state's cotton crop was reported to be in excellent condition. The remainder was reported as 38% good, 45% fair, 12% poor, and 1% 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 McCarty reported that things are relatively quiet in cotton he is checking. He stated that he has spotty stink bugs that need attention (he uses the 20% boll-injury threshold) and that bollworms are still laying eggs in lush cotton – running 15-20 eggs per 100 plants. He also reported that spider mites are just about everywhere. Last week we reported that some consultants were getting good control of spider mites with a pint or 1.5 pints of chlorpyrifos (Lorsban, Nufos, Chlorpyrifos, Whirlwind, Warhawk, Govern, etc.). That treatment did not work as well for some when they tried it again late last week and this week.

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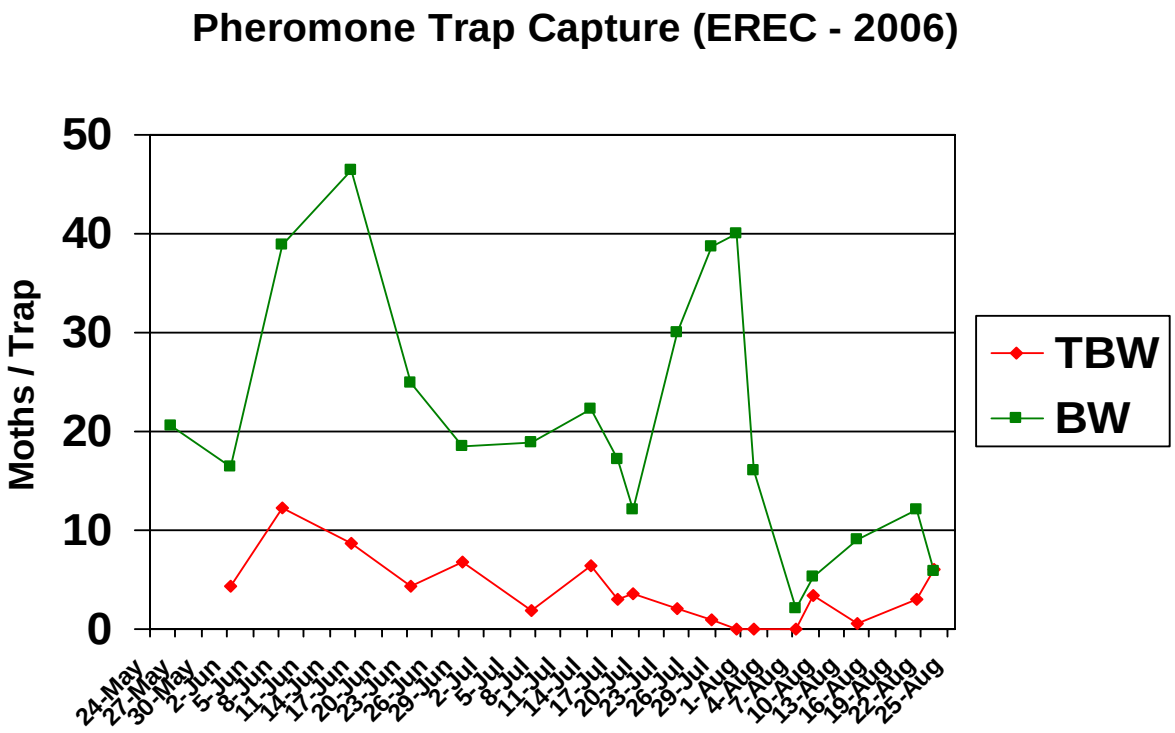
## ***Tobacco Budworm & Bollworm***

Trap captures at the Edisto Research & Education Center (EREC) near Blackville, SC, are shown below through 23 August 2006. After the peak near the end of July and beginning of August, our captures dropped off. Our latest captures at EREC indicate decreasing bollworm activity and increasing activity from tobacco budworm.




## ***Final Insecticide Applications***

Well, this season has certainly been a long one. It also has been one filled with many insect pests. Early in the season, we had a time with cool conditions and thrips. We had vegetable weevils and false chinch bugs to deal with early as well. We had an extended infestation of aphids that would not go away fast enough. We have had our share of pressure from bollworm. We have had some fall armyworms. We have had plant bugs and stink bugs. We still have spider mites. That is just on Bt cotton. If you had non-Bt cotton, you can throw in tobacco budworm and a few foliage feeding caterpillars with everything else. That is a pretty full season. Most of that is behind us. The only remaining insect pests of major concern should be bollworm, sucking bugs, and spider mites. These pests are only going to be a problem in younger cotton with some growth on top. In these fields, continue to check for eggs and bollworm larvae, and treat accordingly with a pyrethroid. As for stink bugs, continue to examine bolls for feeding symptoms in younger cotton fields with a little more yield in the tops. Use our 20% threshold, and treat with a pyrethroid to control bugs and any escaped bollworm. An organophosphate insecticide (dicrotophos [Bidrin], acephate [Orthene, etc.], methyl parathion [Methyl 4E, etc.]

or others) could be used for control of stink bugs only, if desired. Remember that a boll does not become safe from significant yield loss from bollworm and stink bugs until it reaches full size and hardens some. As for spider mites, it is pouring rain outside right now, and I cannot think of a better miticide to use right now than a hard rain. That usually helps on mites, especially this close to the end of the season. Hopefully, our scattered showers are scattered everywhere the remainder of this week. The bolls in the tops need a little more photosynthate from the top leaves, so as long as the leaves have a decent green color, they should be ok. The leaves are going to come off soon anyway, so I would be careful with additional sprays for spider mites. If you do decide that your crop has some life left in it and is being injured by mites AND you believe that you can economically control them (i.e. get your money back on the treatment), you might want to consider a true miticide instead of chlorpyrifos (especially if you have tried it already).

## ***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

Sincerely,

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Cotton Entomologist

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