



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 18, Issue #5 Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

1 June 2023

Pest Patrol Alerts

Some of the information contained herein each issue is available via text alerts that direct users to online recordings. I will update the short message often for at least as long as the newsletter runs. After a new message is posted, a text message is sent to alert users that I have recorded a new update. Users can subscribe for text message alerts for my updates in two easy steps. Step one: register by texting **pestpat7** to 97063. Step two: reply to the confirmation text you receive by texting the letter “y” to complete your registration. Pest Patrol Alerts are sponsored by Syngenta. Alternatively, you can sign up online at <https://www.syngenta-us.com/pest-patrol/south-carolina>

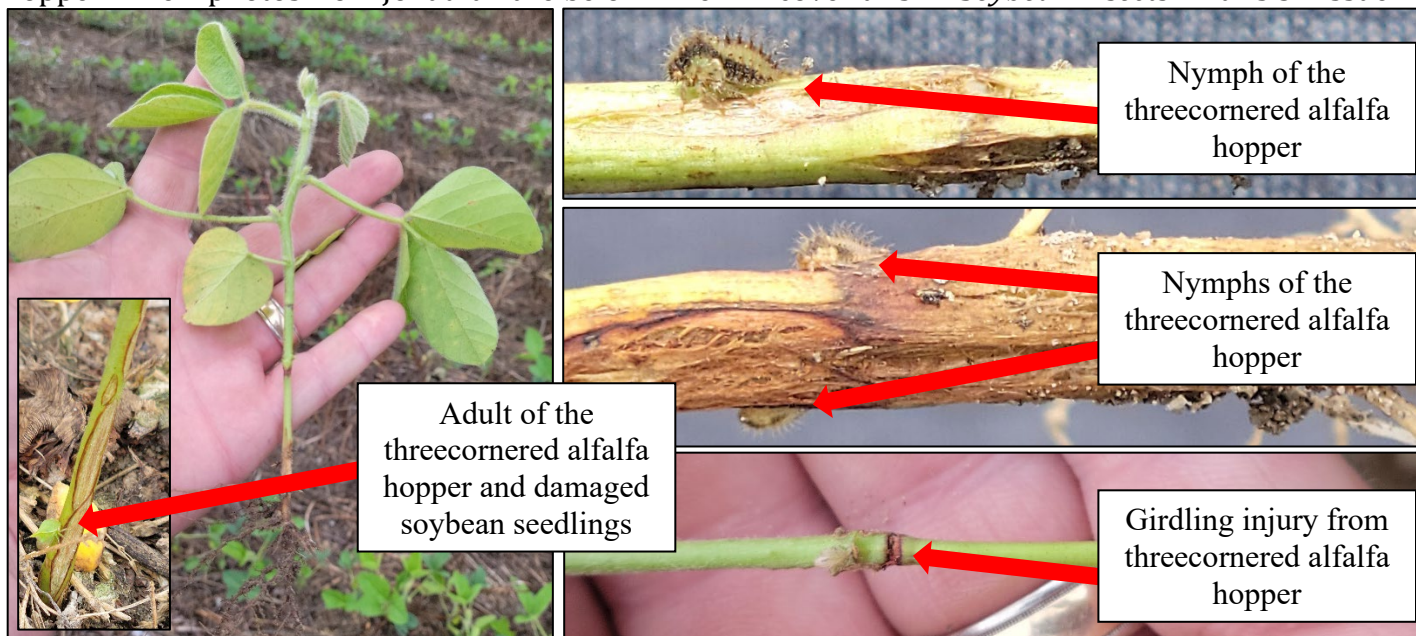
Updates on Twitter

When noteworthy events happen in the field, I will be sending them out quickly via Twitter. If you want to follow those quick updates, follow me at **@BugDocsIn** on Twitter.



News from Around the State

David DeWitt, county agent covering Kershaw, Lee, and Sumter Counties, reported “thrips activity is up this week with several farmers spraying...cooler temps have slowed cotton growth and some cotton just coming up as several acres were just planted last week just ahead of cool slow rain over Memorial Day weekend. AgLogic cotton seems to be holding ok.” **Chris Talley**, county agent in Oconee County, reported that he “has not seen any issues in the Upstate Area as of yet.” **Jonathan Croft**, county agent in Orangeburg County, reported a grower having issues with seedling disease and injury from threecornered alfalfa hopper. A few photos from Jonathan are below. We will cover this in ‘Soybean Insects’ in this 5th issue.



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The soybeans that Jonathan visited and photographed (above) were planted into a green, multi-species cover crop before burn-down herbicide was applied. This resulted in the threecornered alfalfa hoppers moving right over to the soybeans when the crop emerged and the cover crop died after an application of herbicide. We need to provide more separation with burn-down and planting operations to prevent this scenario. **Charles Davis**, county agent in Calhoun County, reported that “after last weekend, cotton is trying to shake off the chill but is growing very little. I have seen egrets in cotton fields, so I know the hoppers are out in abundance. I have seen a little thrips damage in some fields with lots of volunteer peanuts nearby. I am wondering if cotton will be able to outgrow the thrips when the soil pesticides run out. We need some warmer weather!”.

Insect Scouting Workshops for 2023

This year, we will again offer at least several insect scouting workshops for cotton and soybeans in various locations across the state. We will have a morning program in the field scouting for and talking about important insects in the two crops. We will end the workshop with lunch. We have the following dates and tentative locations planned or in mind:

- Pee Dee Region of the state – 18 July, tentatively, with the location to be announced later
- Barnwell County area – 19 July, tentatively, at the Edisto REC near Blackville
- Calhoun or Orangeburg County area – 20 July, with the location to be announced later

Cotton Situation

As of 28 May 2023, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 68% of the crop has been planted, compared with 53% the previous week, 79% at this time last year, and 78% for the 5-year average. The conditions of the crop were reported as 10% excellent, 82% good, 8% fair, 0% poor, and 0% very poor. These are reported statewide averages.

Cotton Insects

Thrips – Thrips continue to feed on and damage cotton seedlings, especially with the cooler temperatures we have been experiencing. Most of the insecticide options used at planting seem to be providing good control this season. Below are some side-by-side photo comparisons of some of my plots from a test where we looked at a few of these options. Pressure from thrips has been low-to-moderate.







April

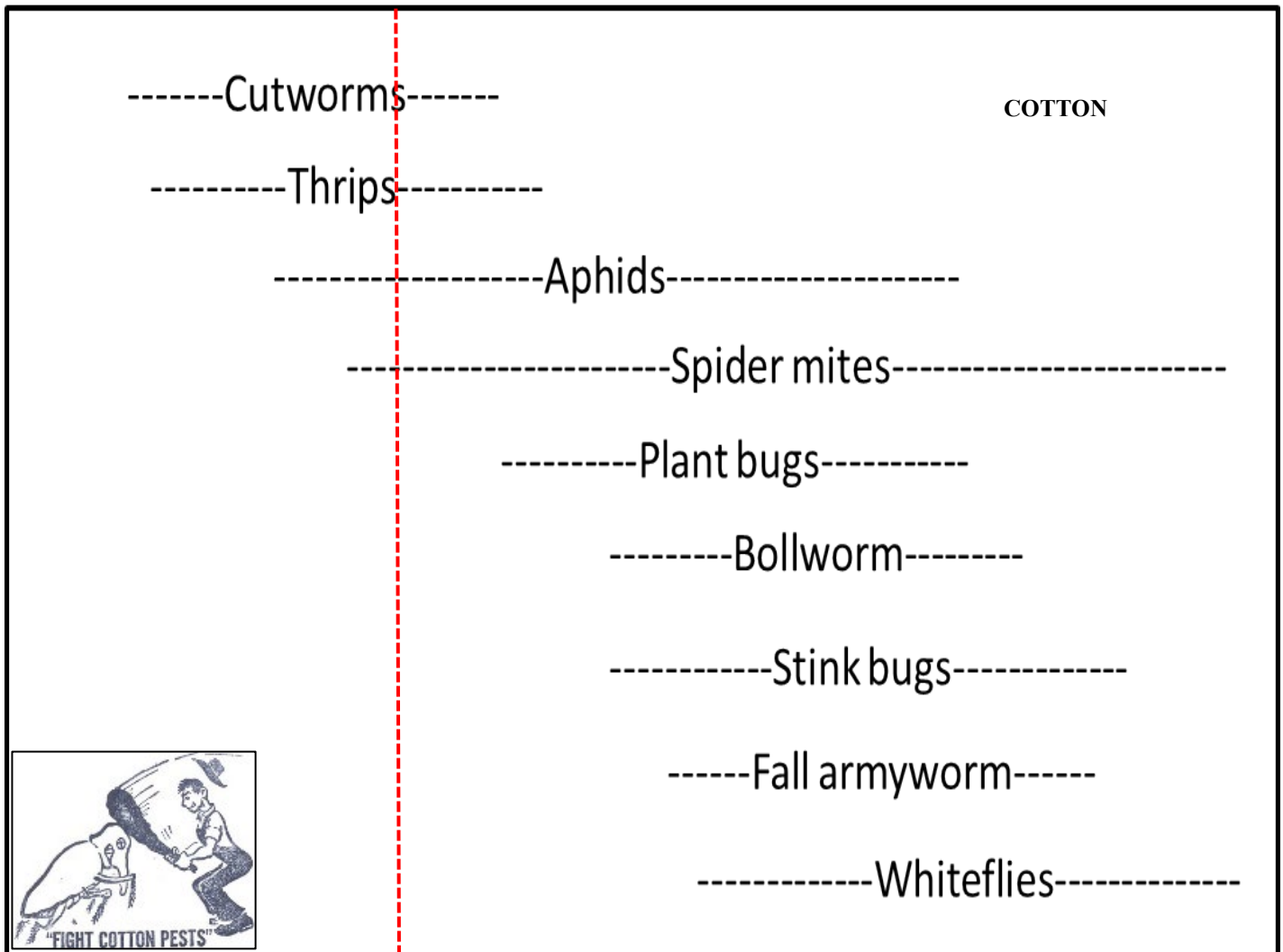
May

June

July

August

September





Soybean Situation

As of 28 May 2023, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 49% of the crop has been planted, compared with 33% the previous week, 48% at this time last year, and 50% for the 5-year average. About 22% of the crop has emerged, compared with 9% the previous week, 21% at this time last year, and 29% for the 5-year average. The conditions of the crop were not yet reported (-% excellent, -% good, -% fair, -% poor, and -% very poor). These are reported statewide averages.

Soybean Insects

The early report we had on threecornered alfalfa hopper (TCAH) should remind us that we must not ignore scouting for insects in pre-bloom soybeans. There can certainly be problems with stem-feeding insects like TCAH early, and **that is when they are hurting soybeans**. We see the damage later when entire plants are falling over before the combine can get to them. Please do not plant into green cover crops without spraying an insecticide (pyrethroids work great on TCAH) at planting or shortly thereafter. It is best to apply burn-down herbicides to cover crops or weeds at least a couple of weeks before planting. This allows time for the weeds or cover crop to senesce and die, resulting in the insects there moving on to another area. Planting after all of this has occurred is best, so the insects present do not move directly onto your emerging crop. Here are a few more photos of TCAH (adult on top left, nymph on bottom left) and the injury (girdled stem on right) they cause.

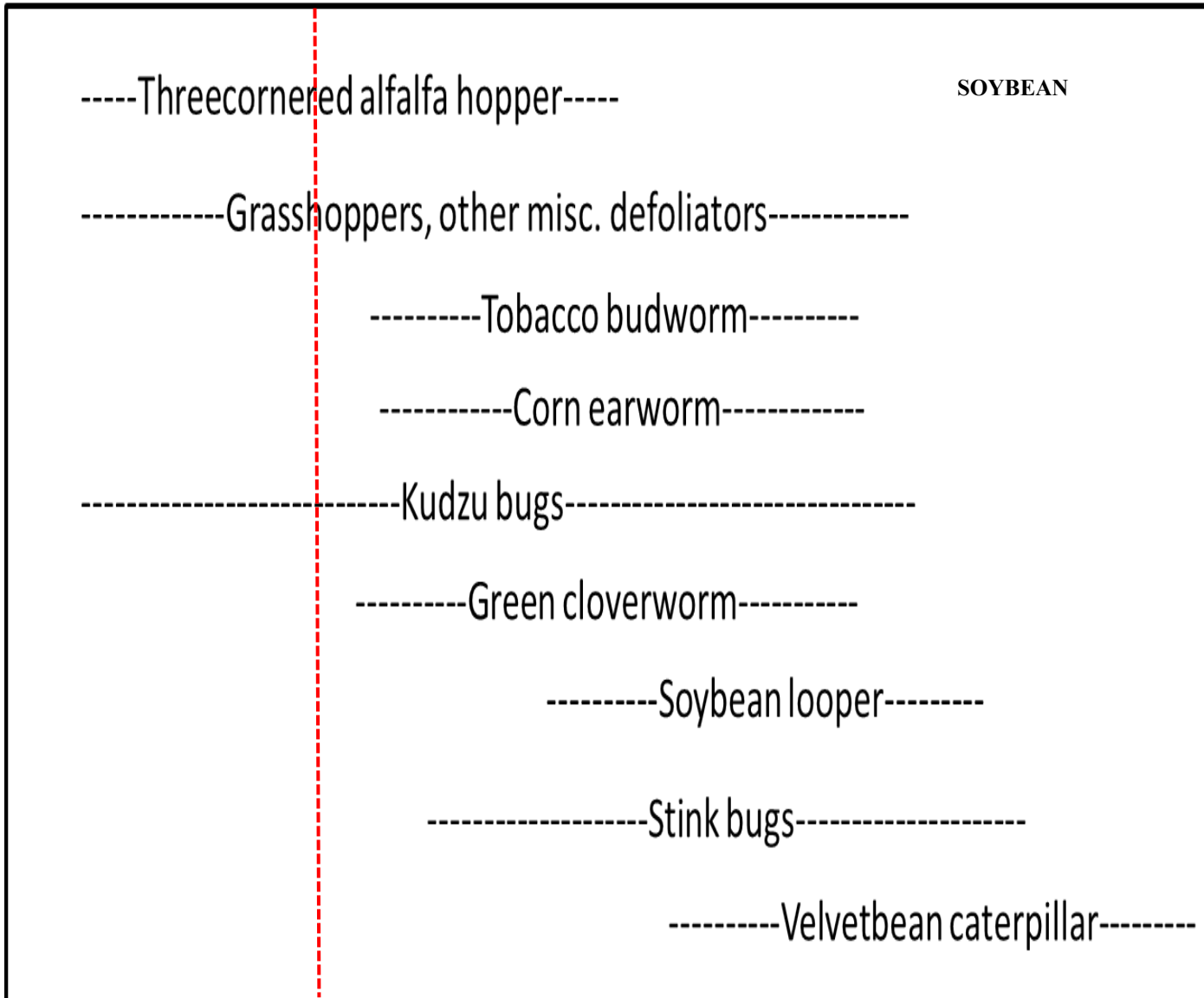


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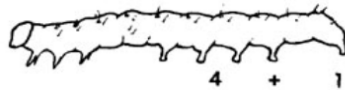
April May June July August September October





As moth activity increases, deposited eggs will yield caterpillar pests on soybeans. It is good skill to be able to identify adult moths flying around in fields. Use this chart to study moth and caterpillar identification.

FIELD KEY TO COMMON SOYBEAN CATERpillARS



CORN EARWORM
4 + 1 pair prolegs
Curls up in hand
Black "warts" on body



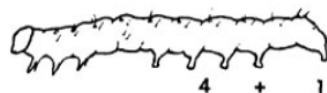
VELVETBEAN CATERPILLAR
4 + 1 pair prolegs
Very active when handled



SOYBEAN LOOPER
2 + 1 pair prolegs
Fatter at tail end
Looping movement



GREEN CLOVERWORM
3 + 1 pair prolegs
Not fatter at tail end
Looping movement



TOBACCO BUDWORM
4 + 1 pair prolegs
Curls up in hand
Black "warts" on body



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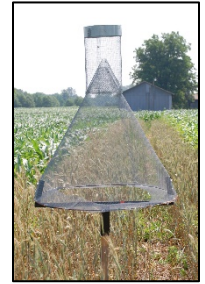


Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm

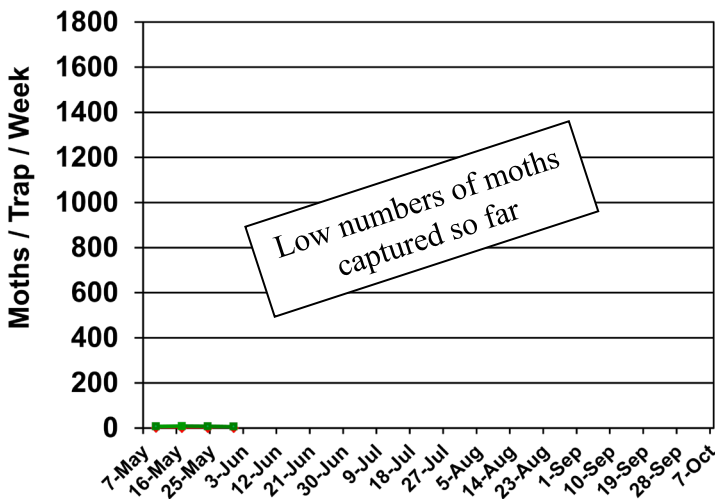


Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2007-2022 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I provide these

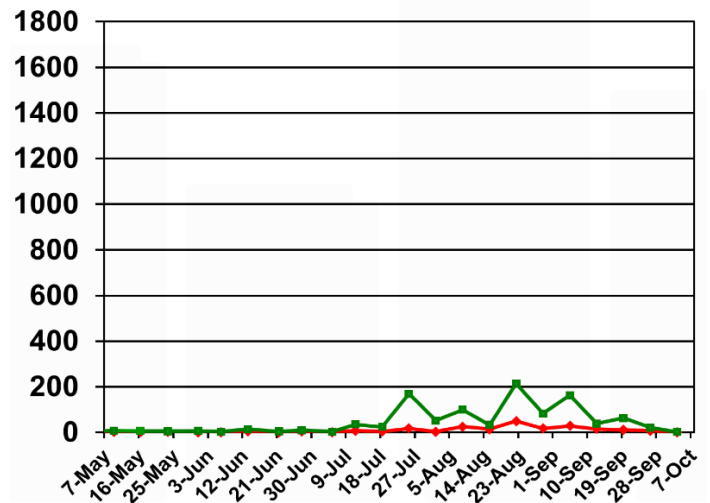
data as a measure of moth presence and activity in our local area near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state but are useful for general trends.



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2023

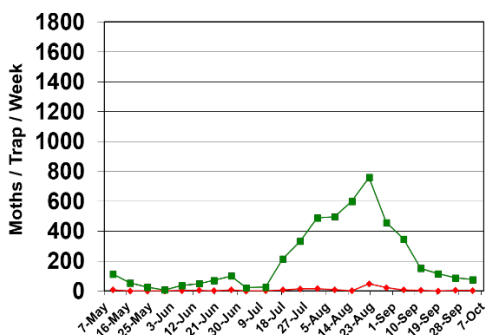


Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2022

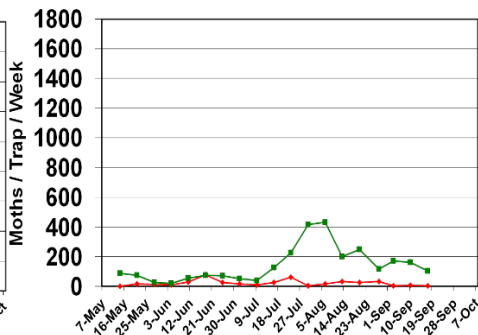


Trap data from 2007-2021 are shown below for reference to other years of trapping data from EREC:

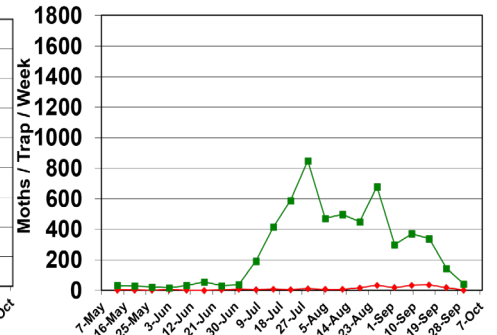
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2007



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2008



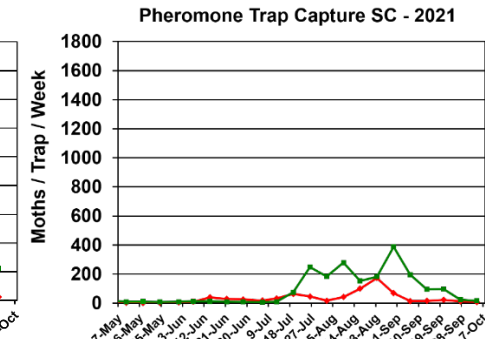
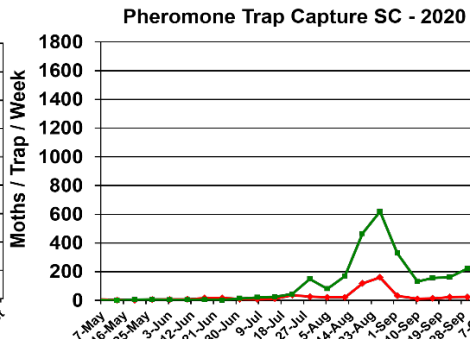
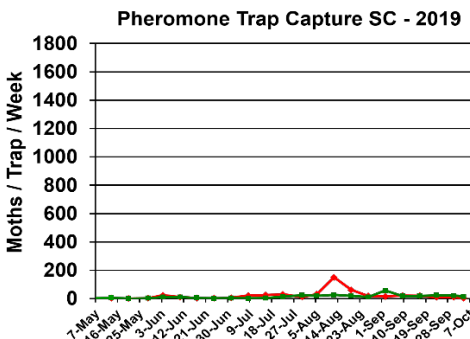
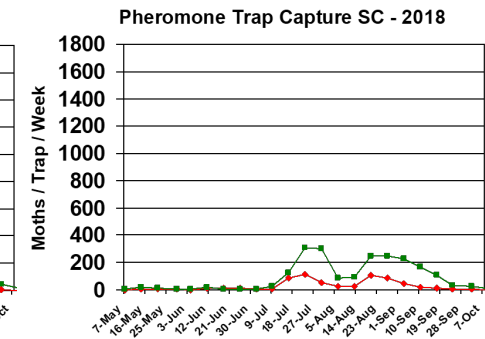
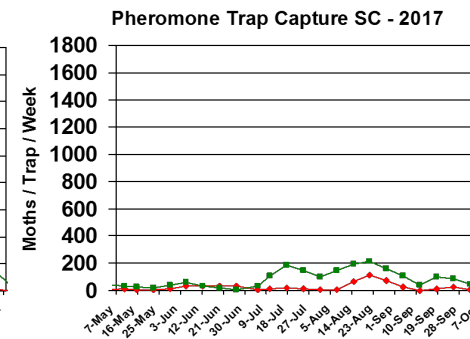
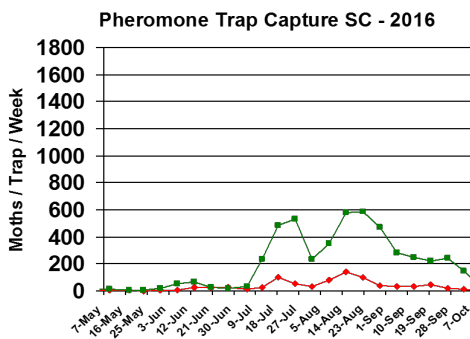
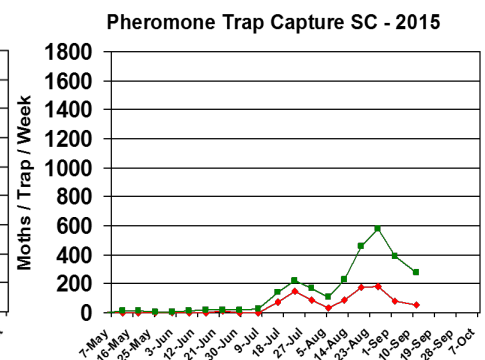
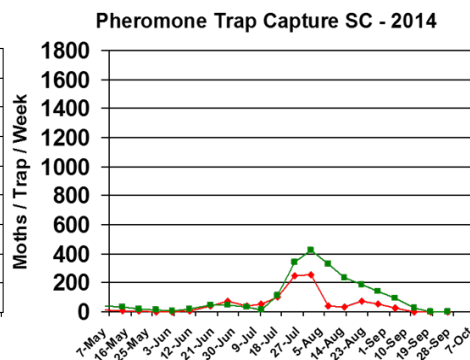
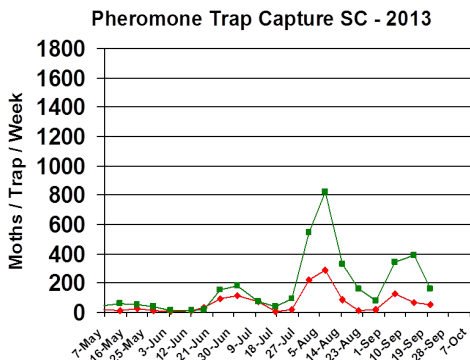
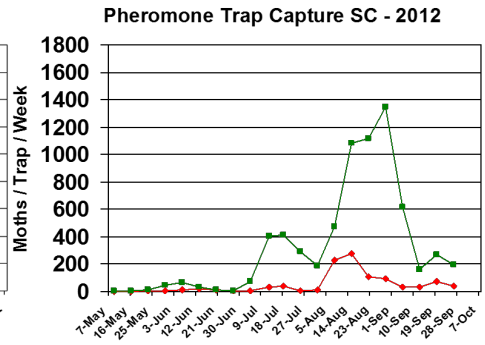
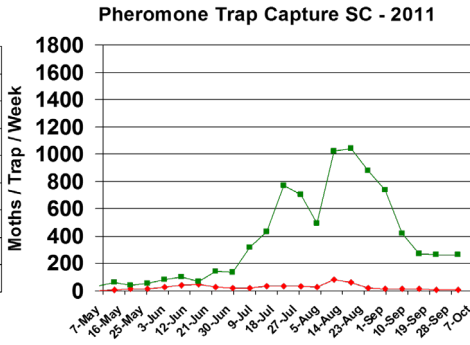
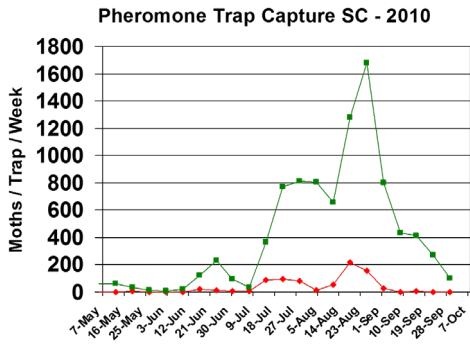
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2009





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Pest Management Handbook – 2023

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2023 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at:

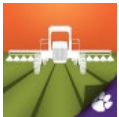
<https://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/files/pest-management-handbook-clemson-extension.pdf>

South Carolina Crops Blog

The SC Crops Blog contains content about production of major row crops at the following link, if you want more information: <https://blogs.clemson.edu/sccrops/>

Archived issues of the Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter can be viewed at a convenient link on the SCCrops page. Contact **Dr. Michael Plumblee**, if you have any questions about the blog.

Free Mobile Apps: “Calibrate My Sprayer” and “Mix My Sprayer”



Download our free mobile apps called “Calibrate My Sprayer” and “Mix My Sprayer” that help check for proper calibration of spraying equipment and help you with mixing user-defined pesticides, respectively, in custom units (available in both iOS and Android formats):

<https://www.clemson.edu/extension/mobile-apps/>

Need More Information?

For more Clemson University Extension information: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/>

For historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

<https://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/cotton1/newsletters.html>

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.
Professor of Entomology



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