



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 18, Issue #6 Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

8 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 **@BugDoclsIn** on Twitter.



News from Around the State

Charles Davis, county agent in Calhoun County, reported “...one thing is for sure, I don’t think we will see any blooms by the 4th of July this year! This cotton is hardly growing. Thrips are abundant, and the lack of rainfall in most areas further depresses the crop.” **Jay Crouch**, county agent in Newberry County, reported “Things are pretty quiet at the moment. Cotton mostly emerged and soybeans going in - AgLogic seems to have held thrips due to adequate moisture to activate.”

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 locations planned:

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

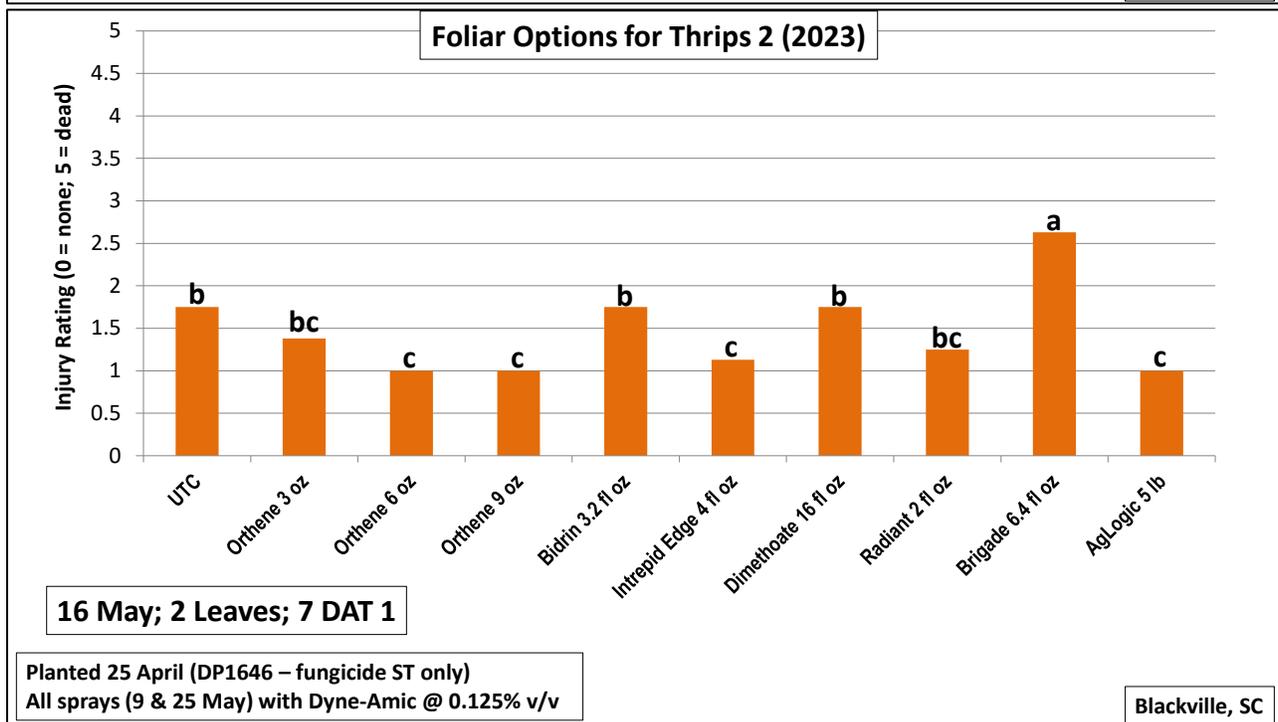
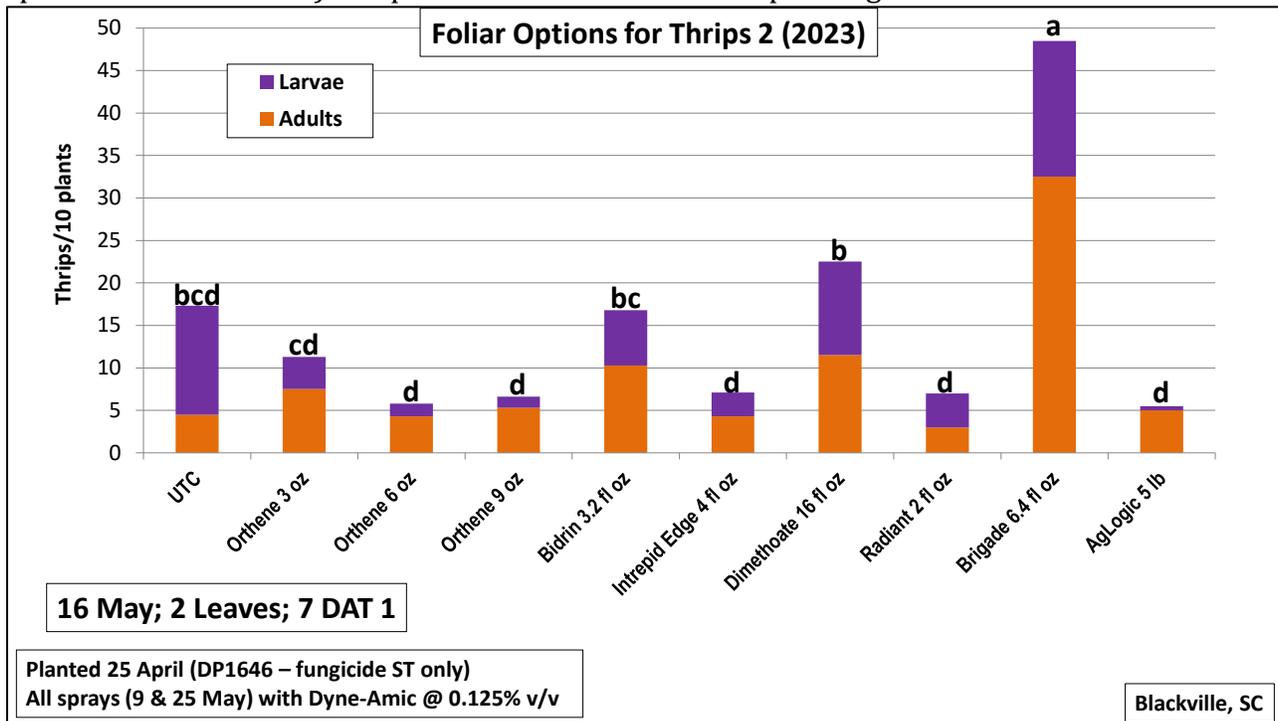
Cotton Situation

As of 4 June 2023, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 81% of the crop has been planted, compared with 68% the previous week, 90% at this time last year, and 88% for the 5-year average. The conditions of the crop were reported as 8% excellent, 76% good, 16% 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 experienced recently. Pressure from thrips has been low-to-moderate in most of my plot work, and most at-plant treatments provided acceptable control. The charts below show 2023 data for thrips density and injury ratings for foliar spray treatments on cotton seedlings from untreated seed (no at-plant insecticide used) compared with aldicarb used at planting as a standard.

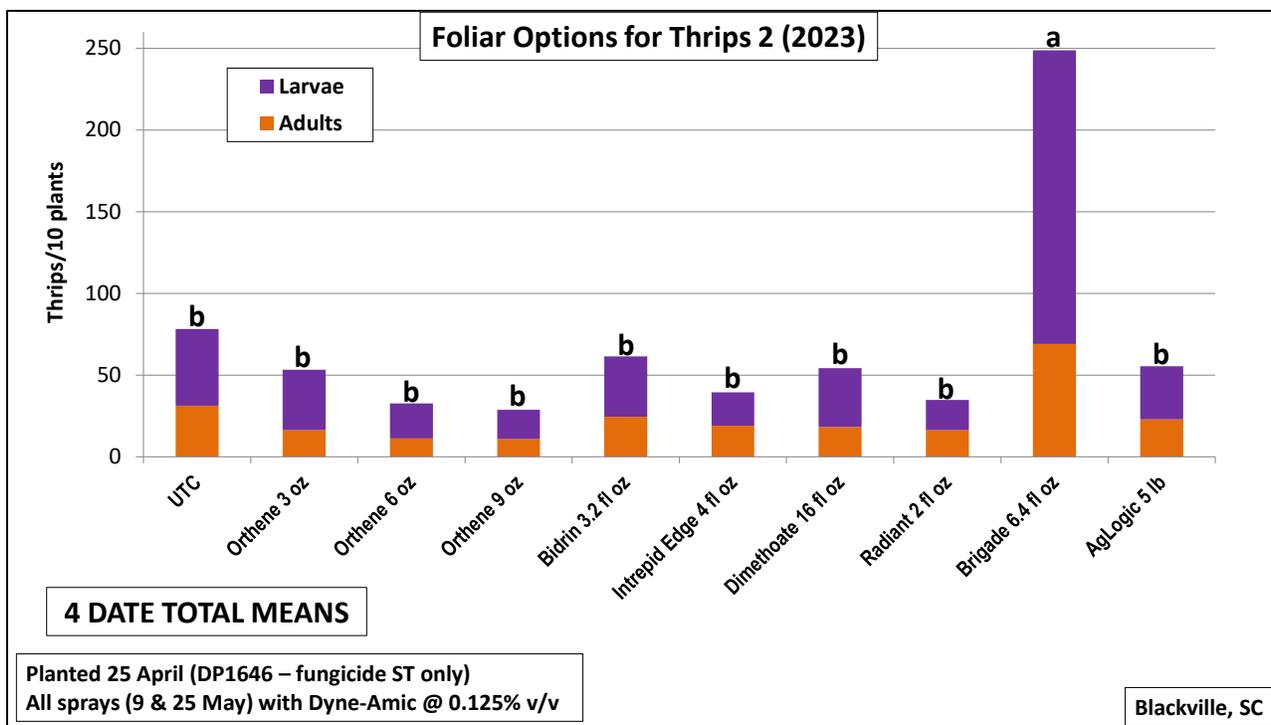




At 2 true leaves, pressure from thrips was not high, but some differences in thrips density were observed at 7 days after the first spray treatment (7 DAT 1). Although there were fewer thrips in the 6 and 9 oz rates of Orthene than observed in the 3 oz rate, the difference was not statistically significant. Density of thrips after sprays of Bidrin and dimethoate were statistically similar to the UTC. Density of thrips after an application of the pyrethroid insecticide were the highest and illustrated why we do not recommend pyrethroid insecticides for the control of thrips in cotton. AgLogic, Radiant, Intrepid Edge, and Orthene had the fewest thrips of all treatments. The injury ratings at 7 DAT 1 mirrored the density counts.

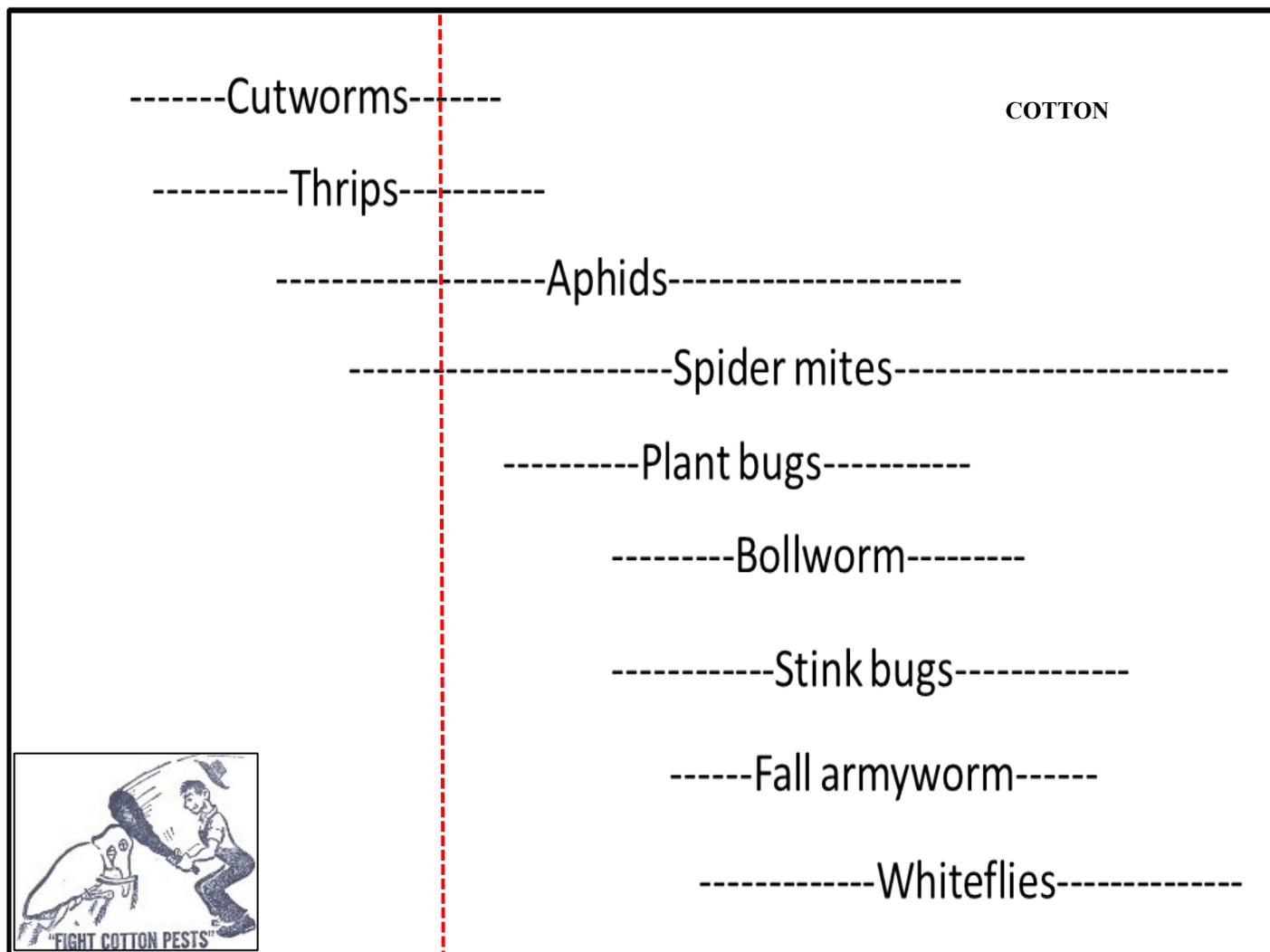
We do not have a label for and do not recommend using Intrepid Edge for control of thrips in cotton in South Carolina. The active ingredient in Radiant (spinetoram) is the same one in Intrepid Edge that has activity on thrips. The other active ingredient in Intrepid Edge (methoxyfenozide) does not provide control of thrips, so, for resistance management reasons, we do not recommend that product for thrips control. That is why we do not have a special-use label on cotton here.

The 4-date total of means from this trial shown below again shout don't use a pyrethroid for thrips and show similar performance across most spray options for thrips. The biggest take-home message for me is that Orthene 97 (acephate) still looks as good as anything at the 3 oz rate. While there are some thrips out there becoming resistant to acephate, especially in North Carolina and Virginia, as reported recently, we are still in good shape with the product in cotton in South Carolina, at least under the pressure scenario observed so far.





April May June July August September



Soybean Situation

As of 4 June 2023, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 63% of the crop has been planted, compared with 49% the previous week, 64% at this time last year, and 62% for the 5-year average. About 40% of the crop has emerged, compared with 22% the previous week, 38% at this time last year, and 42% 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.

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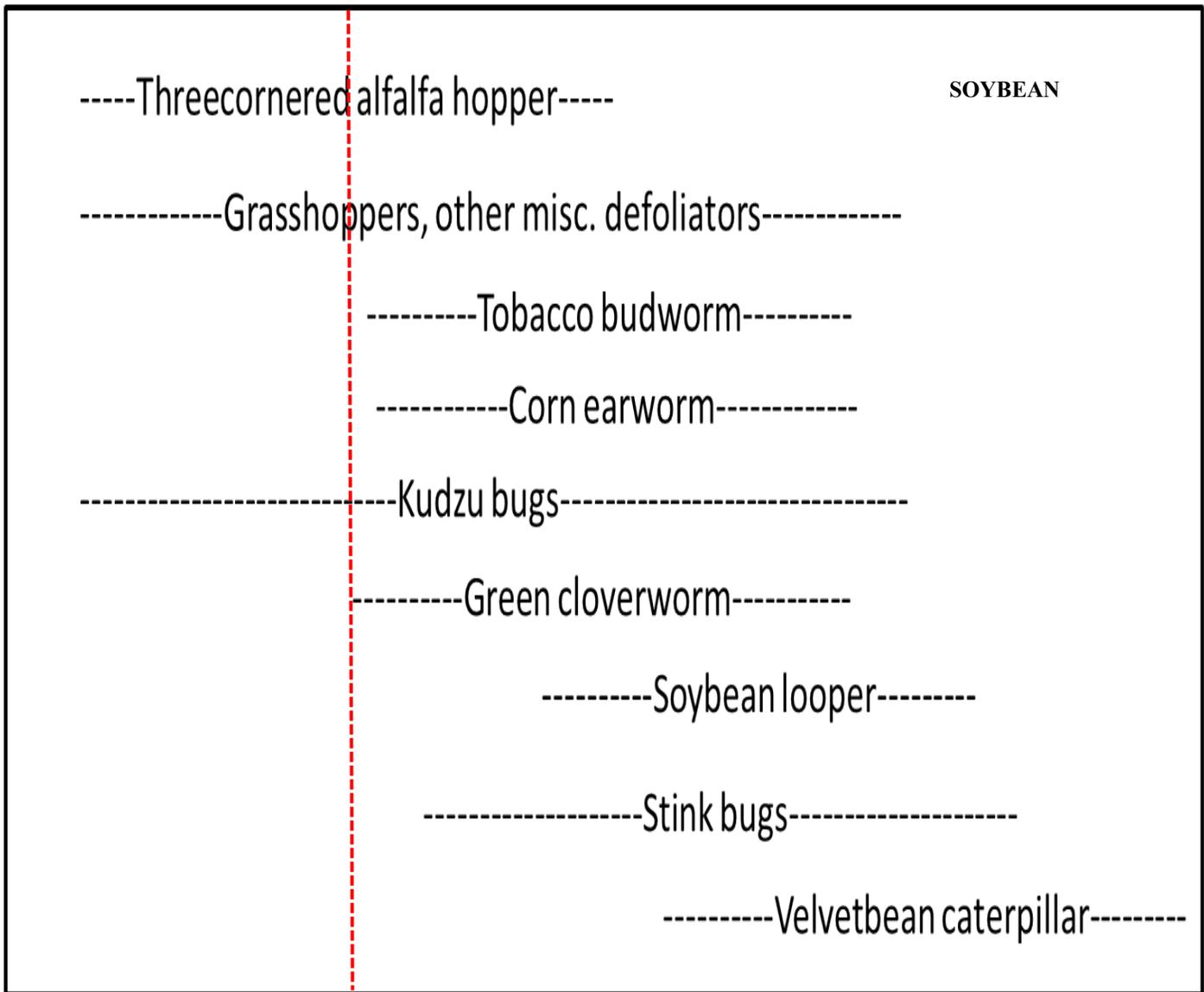


Soybean Insects

Other than the reports of injury from threecornered alfalfa hopper (TCAH) reported previously, we have not heard of or noticed any additional issues with insects in soybeans...so far this season.



April May June July August September October



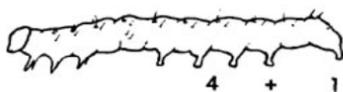


As moth activity increases, deposited eggs will yield caterpillar pests on soybeans. It is good skill to be able to identify adult moths flying around in fields. Use this chart to study moth and caterpillar identification.

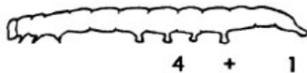
CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

(2017) Prepared by Jeremy Greene, Professor of Entomology

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

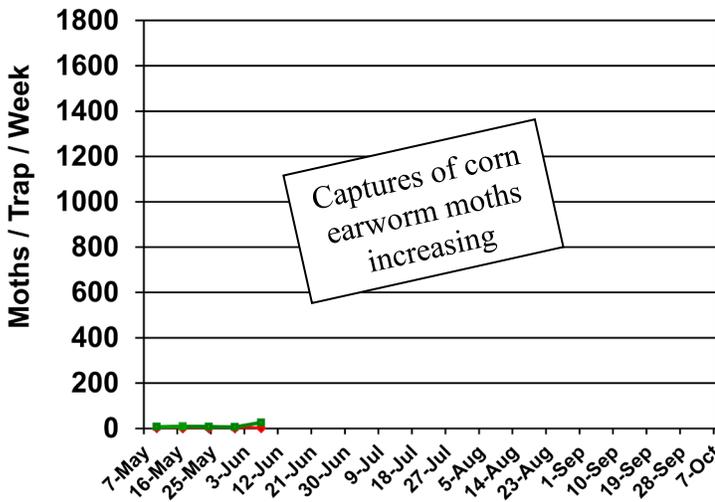


Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2007-2022 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I provide these

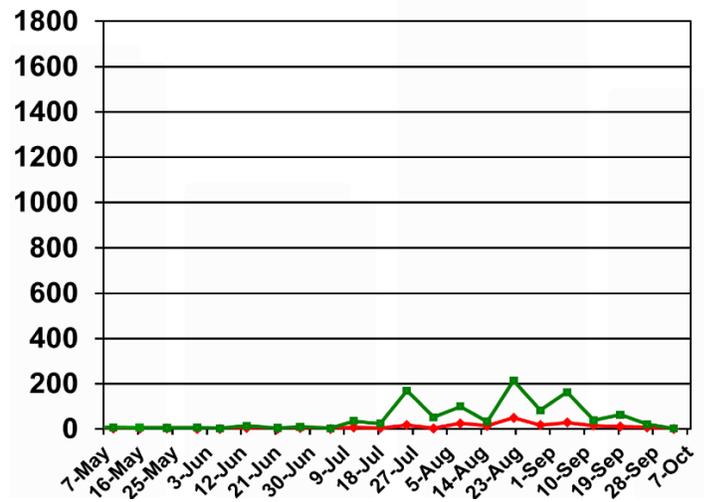
data as a measure of moth presence and activity in our local area near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state but are useful for general trends.



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2023

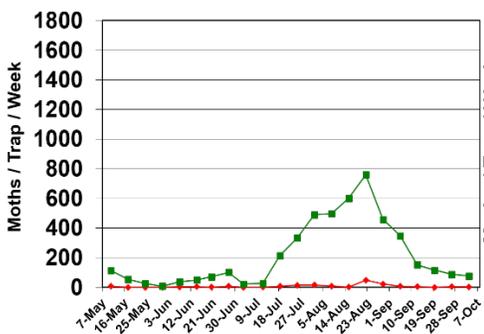


Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2022

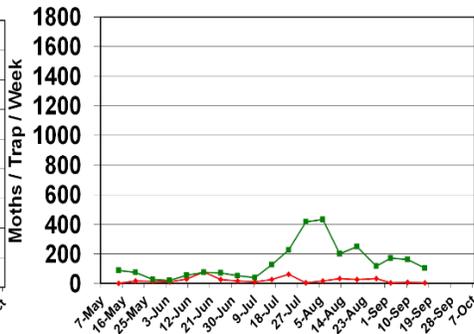


Trap data from 2007-2021 are shown below for reference to other years of trapping data from EREC:

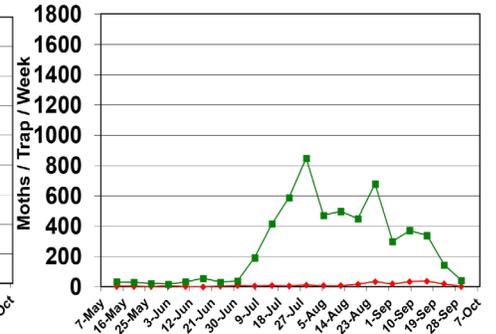
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2007



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2008



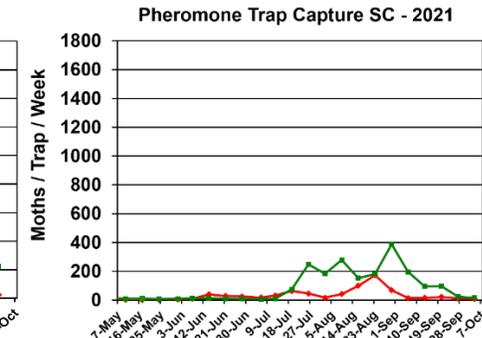
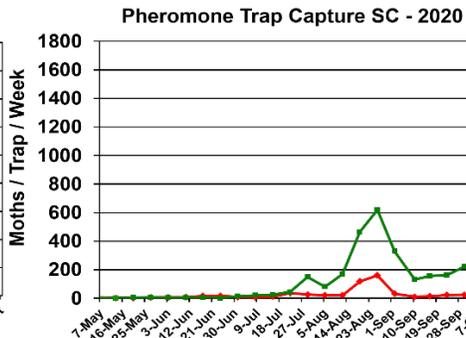
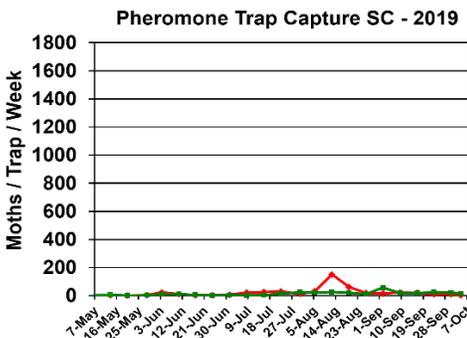
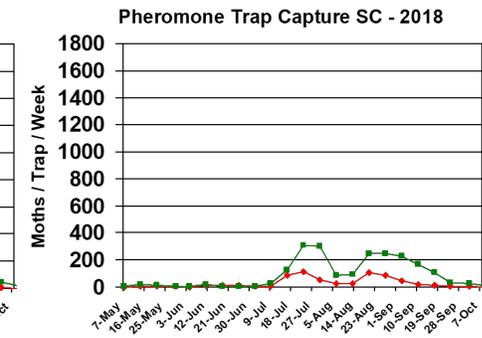
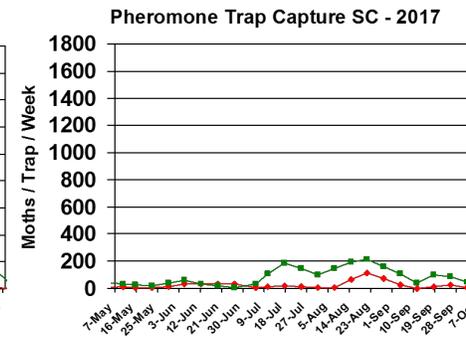
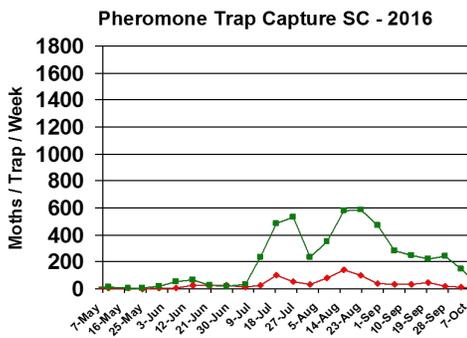
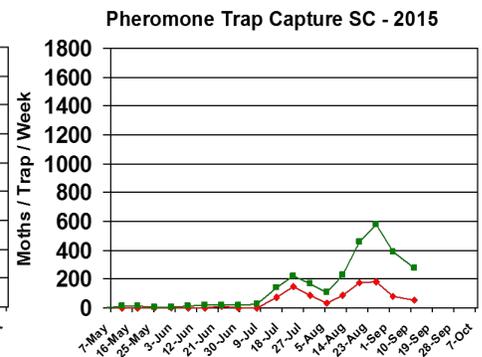
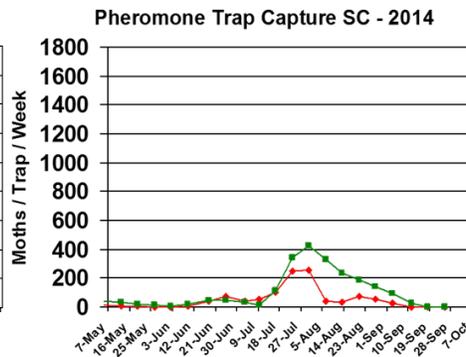
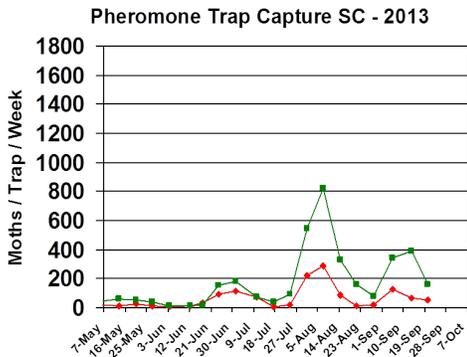
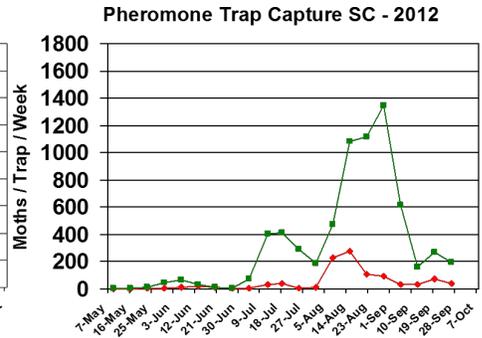
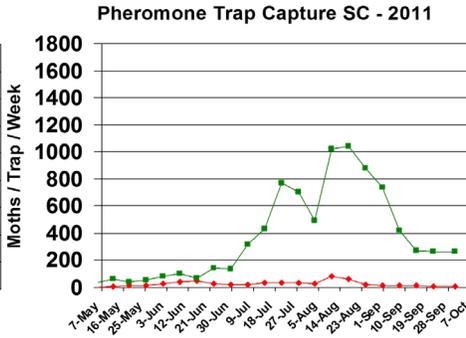
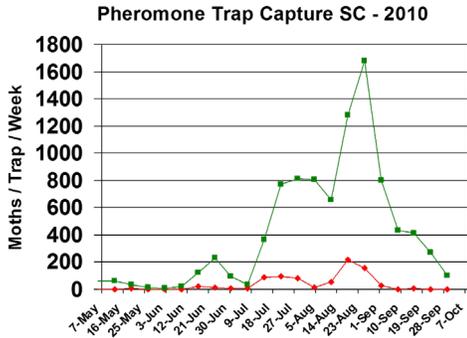
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2009





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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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