Pest Patrol Alerts
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.

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

News from Around the State
Jonathan Croft, county agent in Orangeburg County, stated he has “little cotton or soybeans emerged in his area. Next week, there will be some to look at.” Charles Davis, county agent in Calhoun County, reported “we are just getting a little cotton out of the ground. All is quiet for now.” Jay Crouch, county agent in Newberry County, reported “nothing emerged here yet.”

Cotton Situation
As of 1 May 2022, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 6% of the crop has been planted this week, compared with 1% planted the previous week, 16% at this time last year, and 13% for the 5-year average. The conditions of the crop [have yet to be reported] were --% excellent, --% good, --% fair, --% poor, and --% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

From the SC Cotton Specialist (Dr. Mike Jones)
Comments from Mike will appear here from time to time. There is not much to report yet, as cotton planting is just now getting going. There will be more later.

Cotton Insects
At this early stage of planting and crop emergence, issues with insects are mostly limited to thrips, with some odd characters (cutworms, flea beetles, falsch chinch bugs, etc.) occasionally causing problems. So, until we experience issues with anything other than thrips, we will focus on thrips. The charts below show some data from trials we conducted last year at the Edisto REC where we addressed at-plant insecticide
options for thrips. The first chart shows reduced numbers of thrips with some at-plant options on three-leaf cotton, and the second chart shows injury ratings, with the lowest ratings from plots that received aldicarb insecticide. The third chart shows yield data, and, although there were no statistical differences in yield, there is a trend for numerically higher yields where insecticide was added to the seed furrow not as a seed treatment but as a separate input. You have probably already made your decision on what insecticide you will use at planting, but, if you have not, there are options. Unless you request seed be delivered to you without an insecticide seed treatment, it will most likely come standard with at least imidacloprid (Gaucho) as a treatment. This standard treatment provides some protection from thrips, especially under light-to-moderate pressure. Additional seed treatments might also include thiodicarb with imidacloprid (Aeris), and this is a good treatment also. Under moderate-to-heavy pressure scenarios with thrips, most insecticide seed treatment options will require a foliar spray for thrips. Under these conditions or when planting early in cooler conditions, when cotton grows slowly, in-furrow applications of insecticide via in-furrow sprays or granular products can offer enhanced protection from thrips that is often needed early. We are now into May, and the Thrips Infestation Predictor model for cotton

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shows that cotton planted in the Blackville area from now on during 2022 has a diminishing risk of injury from thrips. I chose 13 May for this run of the model, but any cotton planted in the southern portion of SC later this week and after should be relatively safe from thrips, as we are past the bulk of risk. The chart for Blackville is immediately below this.

In the Pee Dee Region of SC (e.g. Darlington, SC), the model is showing a similar prediction, with the much of the risk behind us but still in the middle of the hot zone for 4 May. Any cotton planted right now around Darlington is at the highest risk for thrips injury, but any planted in the Pee Dee Region after mid-May should be safe from significant risk of thrips injury. The chart for Darlington, SC, is on the next page.
The model is showing something completely different for the western portion of the state (north of I-20 and west of I-77). For example, in Lowrys, SC, the model is showing that the risk of injury from thrips is starting a high-risk time now and ends the month of May with heightened risk. A small window of reduced risk is predicted during the third week of May. In the Newberry, SC, area, the risk is high for cotton planted now and for the next couple of weeks before that subsides during the second half of May. Remember, these risk indices are just predictions and they apply to planting date – not indicating when thrips are predicted to be highest. There are additional charts for those data after you run the model. I would encourage you to check it out at: https://products.climate.ncsu.edu/ag/cottontip
Select your field on the map, and input a desired planting date with models before and after that date. I always choose 10 days on the drop-down.
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So, for now, watch out for thrips. Any dryland acres could experience difficulties with uptake of at-plant insecticide, especially if we do not get some much needed rain across the state. It is dry down here, for sure.

**Soybean Situation**

As of 1 May 2022, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 3% of the crop has been planted this week, compared with 0% planted the previous week, 7% at this time last year, and 4% for the 5-year average. The conditions of the crop (have yet to be reported) were --% excellent, --% good, --% fair, --% poor, and --% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

**From the SC Soybean Specialist (Dr. Michael Plumblee)**

“Most soybeans are still in the bag, but that will soon change. Stay tuned for more general information about the SC soybean crop.”

**Soybean Insects**

Because most of the soybean acreage is yet to be planted, there is not much to report on insect activity, but, if history repeats itself, and, it does, we will most likely deal with grasshoppers initially. Consider obtaining and using some Dimilin at 2 fl oz/acre for alleviating issues with grasshoppers in fields with a history of grasshopper pressure and injury. This product works on the immatures and can be tank-mixed with another product to control the adults.
The figure below is for much later in the season, but it stays here as a reminder to learn how to identify larvae and adults (moths).

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.

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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 2007-2020 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.

![Graphs showing moth captures from 2007-2022 and 2021, with notes indicating a recent start of trapping and data not yet caught.](image)

Trap data from 2007-2020 are shown below for reference to other years of trapping data from EREC:

![Graphs showing moth captures from different years (2007, 2008, 2009), with data showing trends and peaks.](image)
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**Pest Management Handbook – 2022**
Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2022 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at:
https://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/pestmanagement2022/2022pmhmaster.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):
http://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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