**Pest Patrol Alerts**
There was a disruption in text alerts this season, so, if you have not received text alerts from the Pest Patrol program this year and you had previously and want to continue receiving them, go through the steps below again. If you have been receiving Pest Patrol texts this season for my recorded messages, you are good and no reregistration is needed. Thanks.

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.

**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](https://twitter.com/bugdocisin) on Twitter.

**News from Around the State**
Jonathan Croft, county agent in Orangeburg County, reported, “Cotton I looked at this week is about a week to 10 days out from starting boll-injury assessment for stink bug damage. I saw a few aphids (pictured here) starting in this cotton as well. Soybeans I have looked at this week had a few adult kudzu bugs at a low level.”

**Scouting Workshops**
Plans are set for our 2022 in-field, in-person workshops devoted to scouting for insect issues in cotton and soybeans, everything peanuts with Dr. Dan Anco, and weed identification with Dr. Mike Marshall. Dates and locations for these scouting workshops are below. You must preregister to attend. Information about preregistration is on the flyers and on the attached announcements. Attendance could be limited to the first 50 participants that preregister for each session/workshop,
Cotton Situation
As of 3 July 2022, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 50% of the crop is squaring, compared with 29% the previous week, 45% at this time last year, and 45% for the 5-year average. About 12% of the crop is setting bolls, compared with 2% the previous week, 6% at this time last year, and 6% for the 5-year average. The conditions of the crop were 10% excellent, 55% good, 25% fair, 7% poor, and 3% very poor. These are reported statewide averages.

Cotton Insects
Aphids – The cotton aphid is the most noticeable insect pest in the crop right now. If the crop looks good, I would let aphids go for now. Almost all of the data I have seen over the years indicate that it doesn’t pay to spray for aphids. Right now, most aphids are just serving as food for the natural enemies that are building. Insect predators feed on aphids because they are numerous, slow, soft-bodied, easy to capture, etc. That population of natural enemies will grow, and, when aphids die off quickly due to a fungal epizootic, you will be left with a robust population of predators looking for something to eat – that might be bollworm eggs and larvae, stink bugs, etc. One of my workers took the photo here (at right) of lady beetle eggs that will soon hatch and get to work on the aphids.
Plant bugs – Use a sweep net to check for plant bugs before bloom, and monitor square retention until you see blooms and switch over to using the drop cloth. The threshold is 8 bugs per 100 sweeps when using a sweep net. Our counts of tarnished plant bug (TPB) this week in my earliest planted cotton (now loaded with bolls) ranged from 1 to 4 bugs per 5 rowft using a black drop cloth. Again this week, the highest numbers were in untreated non-Thryvon cotton. The threshold is 3 bugs per 5 rowft.

Spider mites – It has been hot and dry...great conditions for spider mites, and I am sure they have been building. The recent afternoon thunderstorms are likely helping us with spider mites, as heavy rain is rough on mites. Maybe we will keep getting the rain!

Bollworm – Our bollworm population is in the ground or will be moving to pupate in the soil under corn soon. Those moths will emerge soon and start ovipositing in cotton this month. Captures in traps should increase soon.

Stink bugs – Please remember to note the first week of bloom for every field you visit/scout, as this information is required to use the dynamic boll-injury thresholds correctly. You must know the first week of bloom in order to know what week of bloom you are in later. We define the first week of bloom as when every other plant has an initial bloom. Be sure to check for blooms late in the morning or afternoon, as they can be closed at night and in the morning, and you might miss them. There are loads of stink bugs in corn right now, and they will be moving to cotton soon.

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**Soybean Situation**
As of 3 July 2022, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 96% of the crop has emerged, compared with 89% the previous week, 92% at this time last year, and 86% for the 5-year average. About 18% of the crop is blooming, compared with 11% the previous week, 11% at this time last year, and 8% for the 5-year average. The conditions of the crop were 7% excellent, 58% good, 29% fair, 4% poor, and 2% very poor. These are reported statewide averages.

**From the SC Soybean Specialist (Dr. Michael Plumblee)**
"Soybean planting across the state has wrapped up, and most of the crop has emerged. Some of the earliest planted soybeans are blooming. Most of the soybeans I have looked at across the state appear to be in good shape and are off to a good start. Next week, we will begin sending out soybean rust newsletters, as we survey fields to help make fungicide decisions. Thankfully, much of the state is now receiving some rainfall, which is good for soybeans approaching reproductive growth; however, this also makes a favorable environment for disease to develop and spread. If irrigation is available, make sure adequate moisture is applied via irrigation going into bloom and through pod and seed development."

**Soybean Insects**
It is still quiet in soybeans regarding insects. I have only heard of kudzu bugs and grasshoppers being numerous enough to report so far this year. We sprayed some deer repellent this week and will spray more next week. Continue to scout for threecornered alfalfa hoppers, kudzu bugs, and grasshoppers in young, vegetative-stage soybeans. Use a sweep net to see what is out there. Kudzu bug eggs shown at left.

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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.
**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.

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