**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.

**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 @bugdocisin on Twitter.

**News from Around the State**

Jay Crouch, county agent covering Newberry, Saluda, Edgefield, York, and Chester Counties, reported that “VBC numbers continue to climb, and cloverworms are still hanging on. Podworms are scattered, nothing at threshold yet. Sprays are going out due to fungicide timing. Found my first diseased kudzu bugs [pictured here at right] Tuesday.” Charles Davis, county agent covering Calhoun and Richland Counties, reported “cotton has about cut out here in Calhoun County. I have seen some end-of-season stink bug applications going out with a final shot of growth regulator. Other than that, cotton is opening on the bottom, and I have seen a few fields that are just a few weeks away from defoliation. The crop looks good, but we need the rain to back off. Boll rot is becoming a problem.” Jonathan Croft, county agent covering Orangeburg County, reported “there were some beans sprayed this week for stink bugs and a few for caterpillars.”

**Upcoming Field Days**

Here are some dates for upcoming field days. I will provide more detailed information as it is available.

- Peanut Field Day at the Edisto REC – 8 September 2022
- Fall Field Day at the Simpson REC – 15 September 2022
- Agronomic Crop Field Day at the Edisto REC – 22 September 2022

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Public Service Activities

The mention of any commercial product in this publication does not imply its endorsement by Clemson University over other products not named, nor does the omission imply that they are not satisfactory.
Cotton Situation
As of 28 August 2022, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 95% of the crop is setting bolls, compared with 95% the previous week, 97% at this time last year, and 93% for the 5-year average. About 17% of the crop has bolls opening, compared with 6% the previous week, 11% at this time last year, and 16% for the 5-year average. The conditions of the crop were 14% excellent, 65% good, 17% fair, 3% poor, and 1% very poor. These are reported statewide averages.

Cotton Insects
Bollworm – Captures of bollworm moths in my pheromone traps decreased this past week, and I think most acres are now past the point of incurring significant injury from bollworm. I will keep trapping them through September to complete the “moth season” and provide a final picture of 2022.

Stink bugs – Stink bug month (August) for 2022 is “officially” over in South Carolina, but the #1 insect pest group of cotton in our state will continue to develop on the crop into September. As I stated last week, nymphs of the various species of stink bugs cannot fly from the crop; therefore, they must complete their development before they can leave. So, often, when insecticides are terminated too soon, we are left with a population of immature stink bugs in the field that continue to feed on bolls. The data I showed in the issue last week clearly showed that large nymphs can cause as much injury as adults. Most of our cotton is probably in weeks 6-8 of bloom, and our dynamic boll-injury thresholds for those weeks are 20, 30, and 50%, respectively, internal boll injury. So, check the largest and softest bolls you can find through those weeks and monitor for thresholds. Also presented last week were data showing that bolls are susceptible to feeding injury up to 25 days from flower.
**Soybean Situation**
As of 28 August 2022, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 85% of the crop is blooming, compared with 77% the previous week, 90% at this time last year, and 89% for the 5-year average. About 54% of the crop is setting pods, compared with 43% the previous week, 53% at this time last year, and 55% for the 5-year average. The conditions of the crop were 10% excellent, 73% good, 14% fair, 2% poor, and 1% very poor. These are reported statewide averages.

**Soybean Insects**
In my area of the state, numbers of defoliating caterpillars have increased and include soybean looper (SBL), green cloverworm (GCW), and velvetbean caterpillar (VBC). Moths of VBC are everywhere in soybeans around here, and their eggs are hatching. Again, these species are migratory, so they can keep coming from southern latitudes, and we will probably see that for a couple of more weeks, especially in late-planted soybeans. In trials swept today, VBC was the most numerous caterpillar. If you have soybeans that haven’t been sprayed with insecticide in a few weeks, you might need to check those fields again for a complex of defoliating leps.

Also, in the mix are various species of stink bugs and kudzu bugs. I am still seeing just about every species of stink bug that can be important in soybeans in our state. Those include green stink bug (GSB), redbanded stink bug (RBSB), southern green stink bug (SGSB), brown stink bug (BSB), and the brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB). Use our published thresholds of 1-2 bugs per sweep or 1 bug per row ft (38” rows). I did see a predaceous stink bug eating a VBC larva this afternoon (pictured below), so not all stink bugs are “bad guys” in soybeans, but there’s too many to eat!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
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<tr>
<td>Threecornered alfalfa hopper</td>
<td>Grasshoppers, other misc. defoliators</td>
<td>Tobacco budworm</td>
<td>Corn earworm</td>
<td>Kudzu bugs</td>
<td>Green cloverworm</td>
<td>Soybean looper</td>
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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 2007-2021 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:
Public Service Activities

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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/pestmanagment2022/2022pmhmaster.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

Visit our website at:
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