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
Jonathan Croft, county agent covering Orangeburg County, reported that he “looked at soybeans this week with mix of worms and stink bugs. Some fields were mainly loopers and some fields were mainly VBC. Stink bugs were green.” Hannah Mikell, county agent covering Clarendon and Williamsburg Counties, reported that “the only thing I’ll add in addition to Jonathan’s comment for the soybeans just above the lakes are grasshoppers. I’ve seen a tremendous amount in the mornings.”

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

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

Cotton Situation
As of 4 September 2022, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 33% of the crop has bolls opening, compared with 17% the previous week, 16% at this time last year, and 25% for the 5-year average. The conditions of the crop were 18% excellent, 56% good, 22% fair, 3% poor, and 1% very poor. These are reported statewide averages.

Cotton Insects
Bollworm – Captures of bollworm moths in my pheromone traps increased again this past week, ending this season with an up-and-down pattern. Almost all cotton acres in our state are now past the point of
incurring significant injury from bollworm, but I will keep trapping them through September because they and tobacco budworms can still be important in soybeans as pods fill out.

**Stink bugs** – Stink bug month for 2022 ended just 9 days ago, but stink bugs don’t necessarily recognize August as the end of their time in cotton. Bolls up the plant and out on reproductive branches remain targets for adults, and especially nymphs, to end the season. They don’t have calendars, but they are the #1 insect pest group of cotton in our state. Most of our cotton is likely in the last week or two of bloom, and our dynamic boll-injury thresholds for those weeks are 30 and 50%, respectively. So, check the largest and softest bolls you can find through the final weeks and monitor for thresholds. I have seen stink bugs survive on hard-shell pecans in a container, so they can feed through some pretty tough outer coverings. Don’t quit stink bugs too early.

### Soybean Situation

As of 4 September 2022, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 94% of the crop is blooming, compared with 85% the previous week, 93% at this time last year, and 93% for the 5-year average. About 66% of the crop is setting pods, compared with 54% the previous week, 66% at this time last year, and 65% for the 5-year average. About 5% of the crop is dropping leaves, compared with 1% the previous week, 2% at this time last year, and 1% for the 5-year average. The conditions of the crop were 13% excellent, 68% good, 15% fair, 3% poor, and 1% very poor. These are reported statewide averages.

### Soybean Insects

Migratory species of defoliating caterpillars, such as soybean looper (SBL), green cloverworm (GCW), and velvetbean caterpillar (VBC), are still going strong.
especially VBC. Moths of VBC continue to be very abundant in soybeans around here, and their eggs continue to hatch. Almost any insecticide used recently in soybeans will likely provide some residual control of VBC, but if it has been a few weeks, residual control could be diminished, especially for SBL. I have some untreated soybeans that will very likely be at 100% defoliation soon due to VBC and SBL.

Kudzu bugs and stink bugs are also very numerous in some of my untreated soybeans. I am still seeing many different species of stink bugs, including green, southern green, redbanded (RBSB), brown, brown marmorated (BMSB), and I even saw some red-shouldered stink bugs (RSSB) yesterday. They somewhat look like RBSB (at right). Use our published thresholds of 1-2 bugs per sweep or 1 bug per rowft (38” rows).

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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:
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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

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