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
Charles Davis, county agent in Calhoun County, reported “thrips are active in Calhoun County cotton that is up, though most of it is still in the ground. Grasshoppers are abundant as well. Orthene going out on this field tomorrow along with Dilmilin.” Drake Perrow, producer and consultant in Calhoun County, also reported injury from thrips and grasshoppers, with some of the grasshoppers needing attention in spots.

Cotton Situation
As of 8 May 2022, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 22% of the crop has been planted by this week, compared with 6% planted the previous week, 37% at this time last year, and 28% 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**

Cotton that was planted in April is up to 2 or 3 true leaves in the southern portion of South Carolina, and it is sustaining some feeding injury from thrips. My technician, Dan Robinson, and I have been planting a demonstration for illustrating thrips injury with 10 planting dates (mid-April to mid-June), and we planted date 5 today. The cotton planted on 15 April is showing the most injury, so that falls right in line with what the model for cotton ([https://products.climate.ncsu.edu/ag/cottontip](https://products.climate.ncsu.edu/ag/cottontip)) and thrips risk predicted would happen in the southern part of South Carolina. Pressure is moderate, but the droughty conditions have hampered good systemic uptake of insecticides used at planting. That has resulted in unacceptable injury in spots and will require a foliar spray to control reproducing thrips in selected fields. The cotton seedling shown in the photo here (at right) should be at the 3-leaf stage, but the 2nd and 3rd leaves are injured to the point where a spray is close to being justified – near a rating of ‘3’ on our scale of rating injury (pictured below).

The chart shown on the next page shows data from one of my 2022 trials where we are examining control of thrips from several at-plant treatments and a foliar spray with and without the new Bt trait (Thryvon) that works on deterring injury from thrips and later controls plant bugs. So far, the new trait looks good again this year, as does aldicarb (AgLogic at 5 lb/acre) used in furrow at planting. In another trial looking at control provided by just foliar treatments, the usual treatments (Orthene, Radiant, and Bidrin) all look good, but the best treatment so far is the new insecticide plinazolin that will hopefully be available soon for control of various cotton insects. We will keep reporting on thrips for another couple of weeks.
Grasshoppers are another issue I see in the field and am getting calls about right now. I guess I need to add them to the timeline chart here for being an issue during May and June on seedling cotton. It seems they are on the radar every year. On the next page are some photos I took this morning of grasshoppers on seedling cotton (supposed to be about 3 true leaves). They had chewed some leaves completely off of some plants. The combination of injury from thrips and grasshoppers is just too much for this cotton. Any young stand under attack from grasshoppers and thrips would benefit from a heavy shot of acephate (Orthene at ~ 8+ oz/acre) and diflubenzuron (Dimilin at 2 fl oz/acre). The IGR Dimilin will work only on the immature grasshoppers, and the acephate will kill adult grasshopper and thrips.

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**Soybean Situation**

As of 8 May 2022, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 10% of the crop has been planted this week, compared with 3% planted the previous week, 29% 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.

Delayed burdown of heavy cover or weeds can result in grasshopper emergence from egg pods in the soil too close in time to stand establishment of the crop.

Chewing injury to cotton seedlings

No deer tracks and grasshoppers present makes for an easy call on what to blame!

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From the SC Soybean Specialist (Dr. Michael Plumblee)
“Around 10% of soybean acres have been planted across the state, only a few percent behind the 5-year average. As cotton and peanut planting continues and wraps up, I anticipate soybean planted acres will increase rapidly depending on weather conditions. Dry weather across the state has allowed for fieldwork to be conducted but has delayed or paused some planting on certain dryland fields, irrigation systems are likely running to help activate PRE herbicides and assist with germination. Be mindful of field history and utilizing inoculants where needed to prevent the need for supplemental nitrogen later, inoculants are cheap compared to fertilizer. Clemson recommends using an inoculant if soybean has not been planted in the field within the last three years. The updated soybean production guide is online at: https://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/soybeans.html and hard copies are available.”

Soybean Insects
Again this week, most of the soybean acreage is yet to be planted, but when it starts emerging, undoubtedly we will begin with grasshopper issues. So, make sure you have some pyrethroid and Dimilin handy. Use the Dimilin at 2 fl oz/acre wherever you see “baby” grasshoppers or wherever you have had issues with grasshoppers in the past. In addition to using Dimilin on crops, such as soybeans and cotton, you can spray Dimilin on non-crop areas, such as field borders, fence rows, roadsides, ditchbanks, fallow fields, and even CRP land. This product only works on the immatures and will need to be tank-mixed with another product to control adult grasshoppers in soybeans. Check the Handbook for those.
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/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:
http://www.clemson.edu

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