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 on Twitter.

News from Around the State

Jonathan Croft, county agent in Orangeburg County, reported, “The recent rain has turned the cotton and beans around in my area. Nothing to report on insects from the cotton I looked at this week.” Other agents reported that they had nothing to report regarding insects and that it was quiet.

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 at the workshop in Blackville. Dates and locations for these scouting workshops are below. You must preregister to attend. Links for preregistration are on the flyers and on the attached announcements. Attendance could be limited to the first 50 participants that preregister for each session/workshop, so sign up quickly. For more details, see attached announcements, as they are available.

- 27 July in Florence, SC, at the Pee Dee REC (2200 Pocket Road, Florence, SC 29506).
  Morning Session – Cotton/Soybean Scouting Workshop
  Afternoon Session – Peanuts
• 28 July in Cameron, SC, at Lone Star Plantation (102 Po Boy Court, St. Matthews, SC 29135).
  Morning Session – Cotton/Soybean Scouting Workshop
  Afternoon Session – Peanuts
• 29 July in Blackville, SC, at the Edisto REC (64 Research Road, Blackville, SC 29817).
  Announcement sent out soon for preregistration.
  Morning Session – Cotton/Soybean Scouting Workshop
  Afternoon Session – Weed Identification and Control

**Cotton Situation**
As of 26 June 2022, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 29% of the crop is squaring, compared with 13% the previous week, 31% at this time last year, and 33% for the 5-year average. About 2% of the crop is setting bolls, compared with 0% the previous week, 1% at this time last year, and 2% for the 5-year average. The conditions of the crop were 7% excellent, 52% good, 27% fair, 10% poor, and 4% very poor. These are reported statewide averages.

**Cotton Insects**
- **Plant bugs** – Our latest counts (this week) of tarnished plant bug (TPB) in my earliest planted cotton (now setting bolls) ranged from 0 to over 3 per 5 rowft using a black drop cloth. The highest numbers were in cotton not yet treated for TPB, and that is right at treatment threshold. Keep checking for plant bugs with a sweep net (mostly adults with this method) and monitoring square retention until you see blooms. That is probably a good time to switch over to using a black drop cloth to check for nymphs, indicating reproduction is occurring in the field.

- **Aphids** – Cotton aphids are out there, but I have not heard of widespread outbreaks yet. Right now, most aphids are just serving as food for the natural enemies that are building. Predators, such as the bigeyed bug nymph pictured here, feed on aphids and other insects they can catch. Seeing immature bigeyed bugs in the field is a good sign of a healthy population of natural enemies helping us out.

- **Spider mites** – I heard from my colleague, Dr. Phillip Roberts, in Georgia that they were starting to see spider mites. I am surprised we have yet to have reports here because of the hot, dry conditions we have had so far in 2022. I hope that the recent rains will keep spider mites “beat back” a little while longer.

The Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer. Clemson University Cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture, South Carolina Counties, Extension Service, Clemson, South Carolina.

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.
Bollworm – Our bollworm population is on the way. There should be large numbers of corn earworm pupating in the soil right now or very soon. Much of the non-Bt corn we checked recently was loaded with corn earworms, and Dr. Reay-Jones has indicated that many make it through 2-gene Bt corn, so I would expect that we have a robust population of bollworm in the making. As corn matures, cotton blooms, and moths start to emerge from the soil in corn fields, we will see females laying eggs in cotton soon.

Stink bugs – As I have mentioned, we observed large quantities of stink bugs in corn this season, and I have received many additional reports of the same sightings in other areas of the state. So, I expect it will be a big year for stink bugs in cotton and soybeans. We have seen a lot of southern green stink bugs and brown stink bugs. I have yet to see any brown marmorated stink bugs, but we will.

Soybean Situation
As of 26 June 2022, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 97% of the crop has been planted this week, compared with 90% planted the previous week, 94% at this time last year, and 90% for the 5-year average. About 89% of the crop has emerged, compared with 76% the previous week, 90% at this time last year, and 80% for the 5-year average. About 11% of the crop is blooming, compared with 0% the previous week, 5% at this time last year, and 3% for the 5-year average. The conditions of the crop were 6% excellent, 55% good, 32% fair, 6% poor, and 1% very poor. These are reported statewide averages.

From the SC Soybean Specialist (Dr. Michael Plumblee)
Nothing to report this week.

Soybean Insects
It is still quiet in soybeans regarding insects. I have deer injury in my soybeans here at Edisto, so we will be spraying some repellents next week in an attempt to minimize some of that. We still need to be watching out for threecornered alfalfa hoppers, kudzu bugs, and grasshoppers in young, vegetative-stage soybeans. Use a sweep net to see what is out there, and re-familiarize yourself with our recommended treatment.

The Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer. Clemson University Cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture, South Carolina Counties, Extension Service, Clemson, South Carolina.

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.
thresholds for various insect pests of soybeans. Those action thresholds are located in the 2022 Pest Management Handbook. My good friend Will Duffie sent the photo shown here of a moth he observed in cotton. This one has not been an economic threat in cotton in many years, but it was once a terrible pest in cotton. It still can be a pest of soybeans we have to deal with from time to time. Everyone know this one? Tobacco budworm...correct! Be sure to study up on identifying moths on the next page, so you can know what larval pests are coming when you flush moths walking through soybeans.
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.

![Graphs showing moth captures from 2007-2020](image)

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

![Graphs showing moth captures from 2007-2009](image)

---

The Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer. Clemson University Cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture, South Carolina Counties, Extension Service, Clemson, South Carolina.

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.
The Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer. Clemson University Cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture, South Carolina Counties, Extension Service, Clemson, South Carolina.

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.


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

Visit our website at:
http://www.clemson.edu