



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 11, Issue #1

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

6 May 2016

Pest Patrol Hotline

The information contained herein each week is available via a toll-free hotline. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. Call the free number (877) 285-8525 and select the messages you would like to hear. Select #1 for updates from the Southern Region. Select #3 for the Southeast, and then select #1 to hear my message. After a new message is on the hotline, a text message alert can be sent alerting 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. The hotline is 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

It is a little early for much news about cotton or soybean insects in the state, but I did have a few agents report in for this past week that they had no news yet. **Jonathan Croft**, county agent covering Orangeburg County, astutely reported that the “cool weather will slow [cotton] down, and thrips will be a problem soon.” **Charles Davis**, county agent covering Calhoun County, reported that “some cotton is up. A lot of peanuts going in this week with cotton to follow next week.”

Cotton Situation

As of 1 May 2016, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 16% of the crop has been planted, compared with 7% at this time last year and 14% for the 5-year average. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Cotton Insects

As everyone is aware, thrips will be the main group of insects to manage in cotton early. We generated some information last year regarding the effect of planting date on populations of and injury from thrips, and we shared those observations at meetings during the fall and winter month. If you missed seeing those data, below are a couple of charts that illustrate how numbers of and injury from thrips responded to varying dates of planting. In Blackville, SC, we observed a distinct peak of thrips pressure during late May and early June, and cotton planted on 1 and 8 May experienced the highest pressure from thrips. Cotton planted in April and June did not experience the high pressure near the end of May. Ratings of feeding injury by thrips were highest during late May on cotton planted on 1 and 8 May, the only two dates with injury ratings exceeding our approximate threshold (‘3’) for visual damage. So, we learned from this trial that planting date does, indeed,

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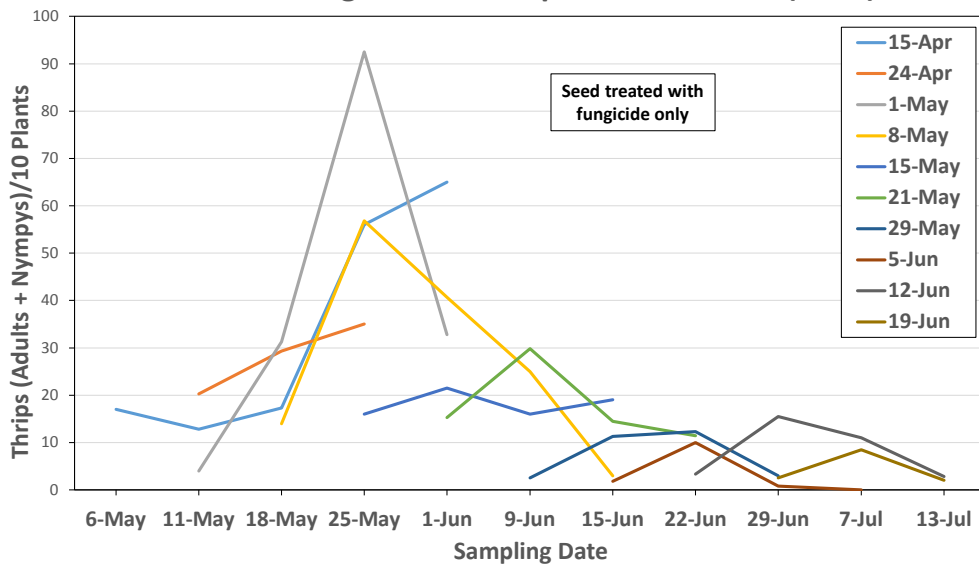
Public Service Activities

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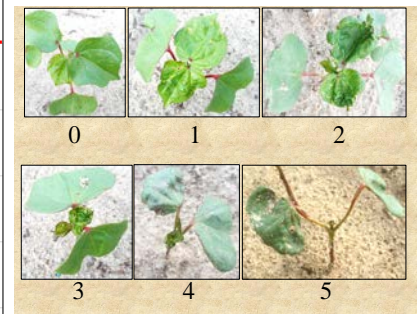
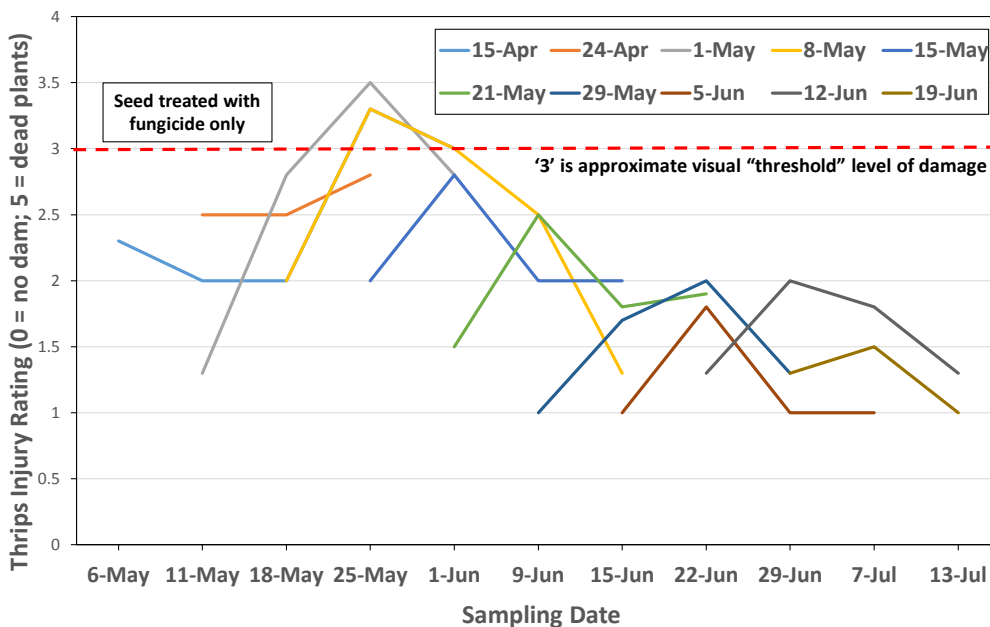


have an impact on the level of pressure that a cotton crop will experience. The highest yields from this trial were observed for cotton planted during late May and before the end of the first week of June. We will continue to validate a model for predicting risk from tobacco thrips in cotton, and this information has been used to help develop this model. We plan to introduce this predictive model soon, and hope that it will help growers plan production efforts, such as planting and spraying, for managing risk from thrips in the crop.

Effect of Planting Date on Thrips in Cotton – SC (2015)



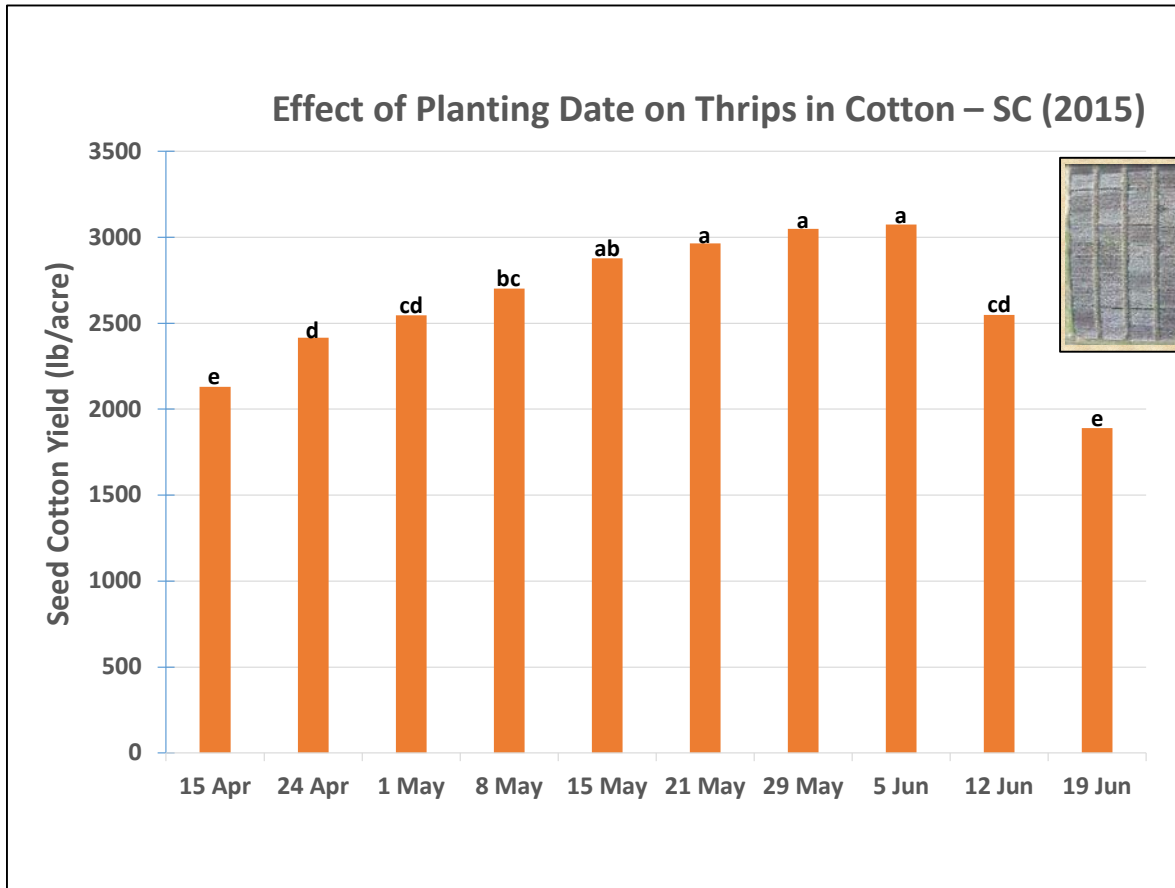
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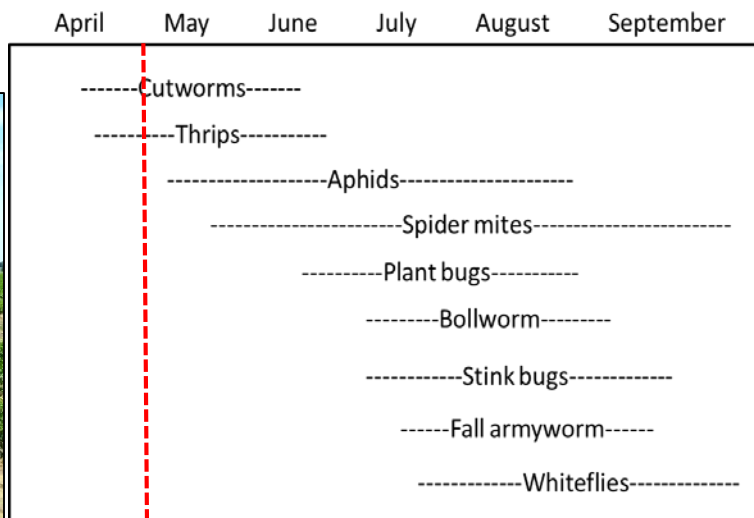
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At the right is where we are now in cotton. Thrips and cutworms will be the major culprits in the crop for a few weeks.



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The Southeast Row Crop Entomology Working Group (SERCEWG) has a new publication out that discusses best management practices (BMPs) for thrips in cotton. Here is the citation and link for that publication:

Herbert, A., D. Reisig, A. Huseh, G. Kennedy, J. Greene, F. Reay-Jones, P. Roberts, M. Toews, A. Jacobson, R. Smith, and T. Reed. 2016. Managing Thrips in Cotton: Research in the Southeast Region, ENTO-182NP, Virginia Cooperative Extension, 13 pp.

<https://calscommproj.stl.vt.edu/Attachments/ENTO-182NP/ENTO-182NP%20Ldscpev5.pdf>

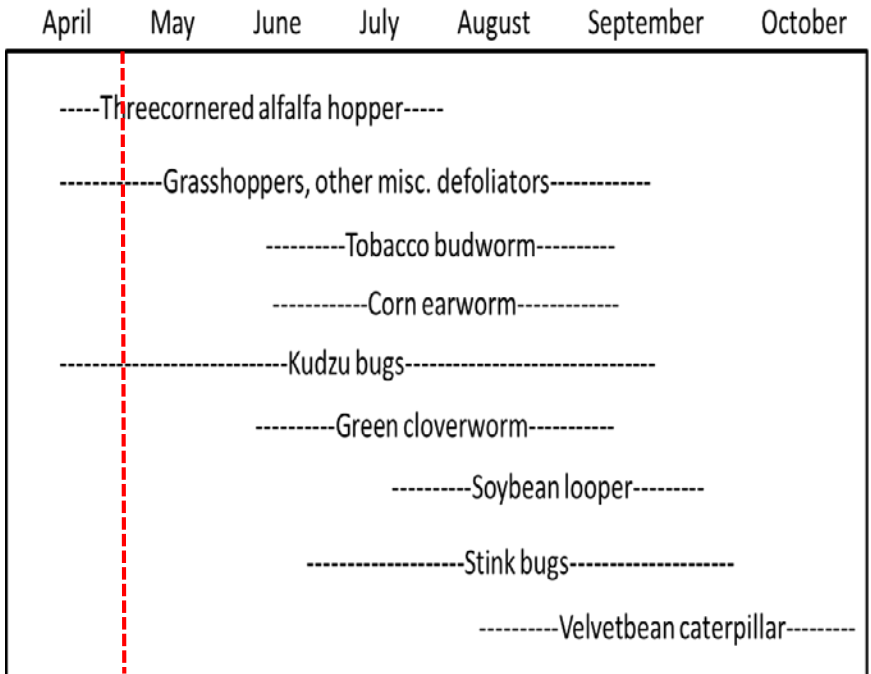
Also, our friends and colleagues at Cotton Incorporated have a webpage that highlights research on cotton and contains valuable information about production and management issues in the crop. You can find additional entomological information on their site at this link: <https://cottoncultivated.cottoninc.com/>

Soybean Situation

As of 1 May 2016, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 1% of our soybean crop has been planted, compared with 1% this time last year and 8% for the 5-year average. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Soybean Insects

Not many soybean seed are in the ground yet, but as soon as seedlings emerge, 4-legged and 6-legged animals will have eyebrows raised and move in for a bite or a million. Because numerous species of insects feed on soybeans, we will keep an eye on those as they become issues across the state. The usual suspects for early problems are grasshoppers, TCAH, and other miscellaneous beetles and true bugs. We will be conducting a trial this



year to see if selected insecticides labeled for use in soybeans offer any repellency to deer feeding. We will compare those to true repellents to see what effects, if any, they have on keeping deer damage minimized on a seedling crop. We will be sure to report what we learn from that experience.

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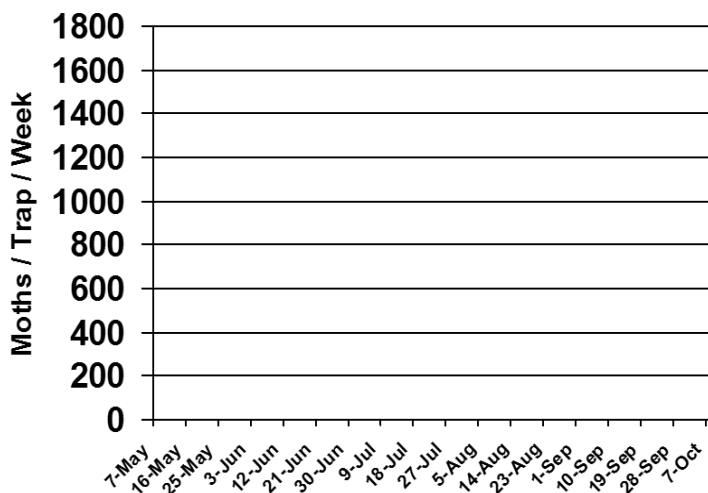
Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



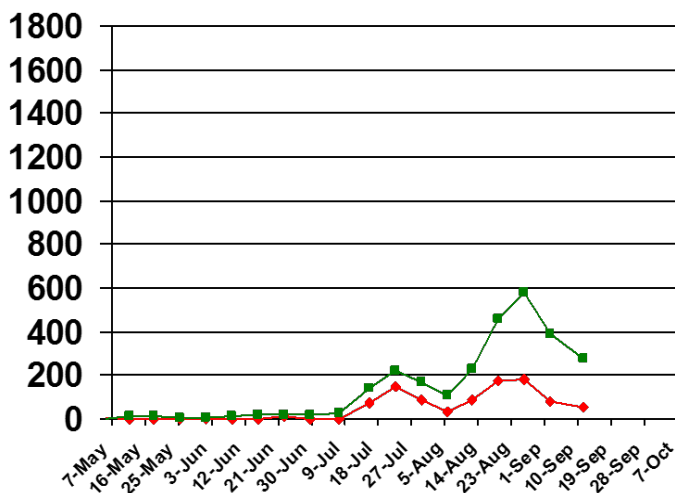
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below (data will populate the chart next week), as are the captures from 2015 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I 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.



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2016

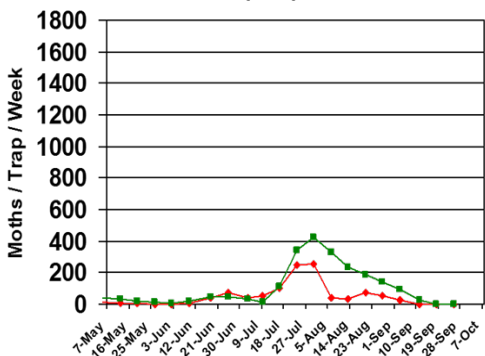


Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2015

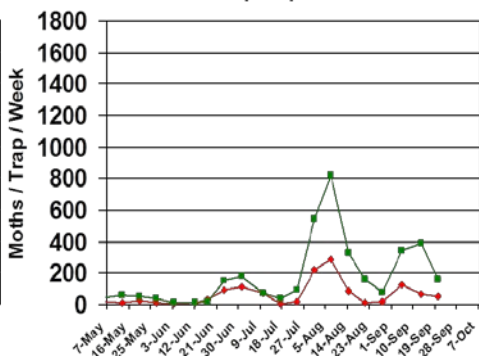


Trap data from 2012-2014 are shown below for reference to other recent years of trapping data from EREC:

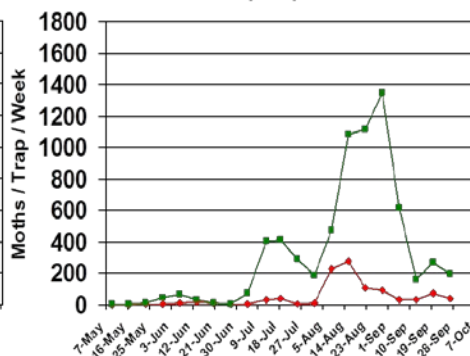
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2014



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2013



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2012



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Pest Management Handbook - 2016

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2015 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at:
<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/>

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 Extension information: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/>

For historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest_management/newsletters/index.html

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.
Professor of Entomology



Visit our website at:
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