



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 11, Issue #10

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

8 July 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

Justin Ballew, county agent covering Marion and Dillon Counties, reported that his “oldest cotton started blooming a few days ago. So far, square retention has been excellent from what I’ve seen. A few aphids are present, but still nothing too serious. Very few spider mites around. The oldest soybeans have been blooming for a week now, still nothing much going on with them.” **Andrew Warner**, county agent covering Hampton County, reported that he is seeing aphids at high numbers in some cotton fields. **Jonathan Croft**, county agent covering Orangeburg County reported that “aphid numbers are climbing” in cotton he is visiting but that he “didn’t see enough yet to be concerned...hopefully beneficial insects and fungus will take care of them. Soybeans were clean.” **Drake Perrow**, an experienced consultant based out of Cameron, SC, mentioned today that cotton and soybeans are clean right now.



Training Opportunity (Scout School)

Charles Davis, county agent covering Calhoun and Richland Counties, and **Jonathan Croft**, will be hosting an **in-field training (a Scout School) in Cameron on 19 July**. The event will begin with registration at 9:00AM at Cameron Cotton and Seed, have field tours in cotton and soybeans, and end with a lunch. I will be present and leading the hands-on portions of the field visits. Come join us! We should have a good time identifying insects and talking about scouting methods, thresholds, and control options. There will be much discussion, questions, and, hopefully, some good answers! 😊 We will have more information next week, but **please contact Charles and let him know, if you plan to come**. Call his office or send him an email. We need a head count to plan for the lunch and drinks. Thanks!

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Cotton Situation

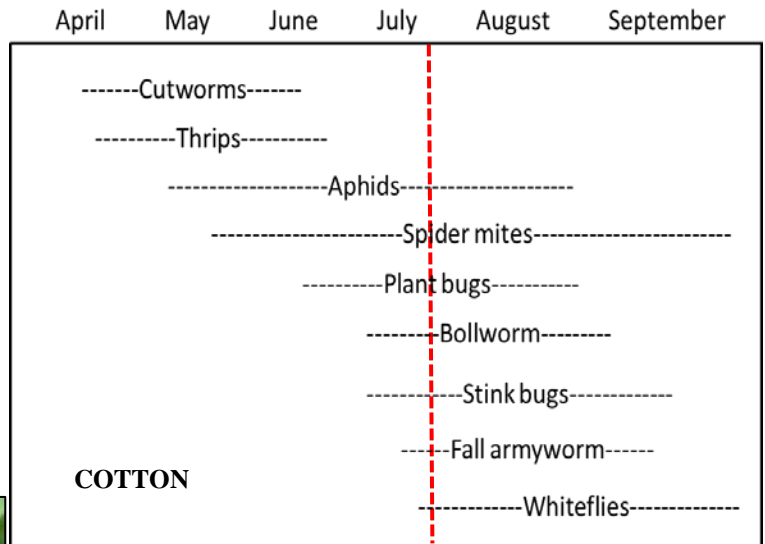
As of 3 July 2016, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 41% of the crop was reported as squaring, compared with 36% at this time last year and 45% for the 5-year average. About 1% of the crop was reported as setting bolls, compared with 6% at this time last year and 10% for the 5-year average. The crop was described as 6% excellent, 40% good, 54% fair, 0% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Cotton Insects

As I mentioned last week, we will be dealing with aphids, plant bugs, and spider mites for another week or two, until we start looking at bollworm and stink bugs, primarily, to end the insect season. Our moth captures in pheromone traps here at Edisto REC were very high yesterday, and that will be reflected in the chart in next week's newsletter, for sure. One more mention this week about plant bugs. As you know, the tarnished plant bug (TPB) is the main culprit when there are issue with plant bugs in cotton here in the Southeast. We can have



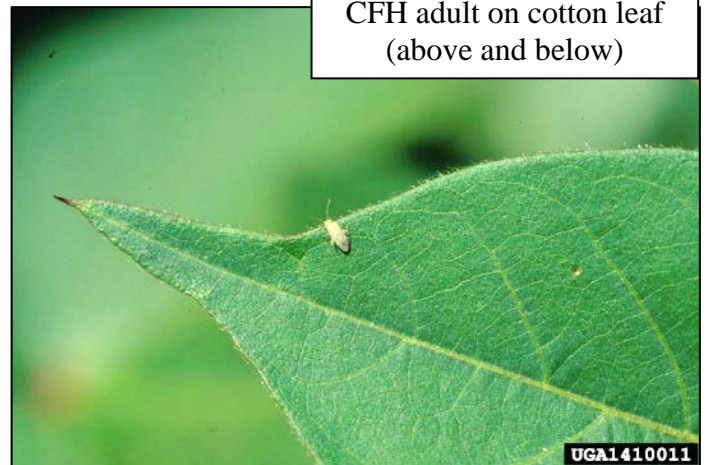
to check for the possibility that plant bugs are in the mix. This will extend through the first couple of weeks of bloom, and then you can focus on stink bugs and boll injury for the remainder of the season. Right now, the best ways to check for problems with plant bugs are to monitor square retention and use a sweep net to check



populations of the cotton fleahopper (CFH) also. Both insects are pictured here. As we move through the early squaring growth and get to blooming cotton, we will need



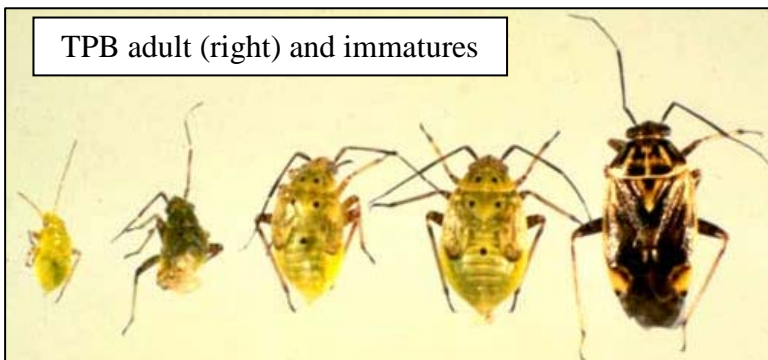
CFH adult on cotton leaf (above and below)



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for adults. Again, I like to look at the first position square a few nodes down from the terminal to monitor square retention. Presence or absence of this square is a good measure of square retention, if you look at 25 plants or more in a few locations in the field. Because cotton sheds many squares due to physiological factors, not all problems with square retention should be blamed on insects like plant bugs. You need to verify with sweep-net counts or observations (blooms and squares are good places to look) that there are too many plant bugs present to go with the reduced square retention estimates. You will see some dead buds (“blasted squares”), or you will most likely see a scar where the square used to be before it was aborted. But, remember stress can make square retention drop...you have to make sure the insects are there before spraying based solely on reduced square retention! See our updated Pest Management Handbook for thresholds and guidelines for control of plant bugs.

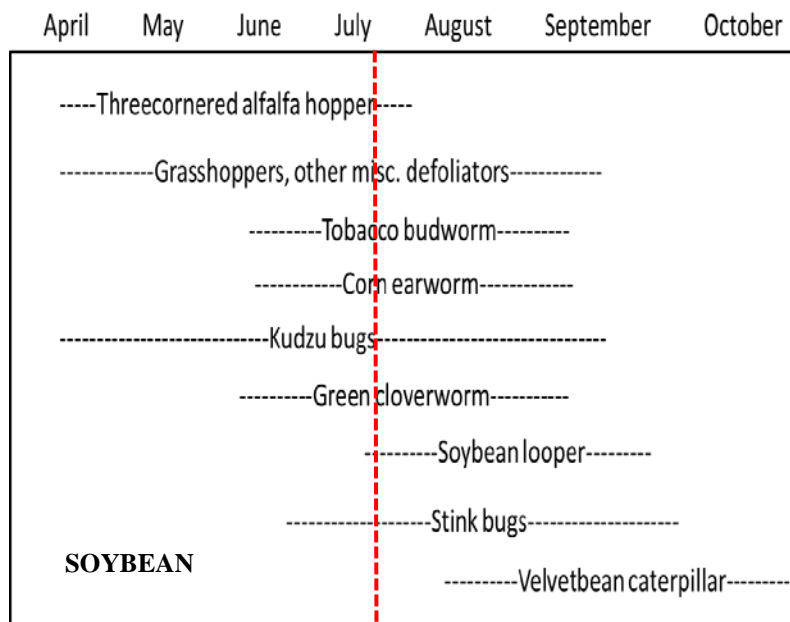


Soybean Situation

As of 3 July 2016, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 96% of our soybean crop has been planted, compared with 91% this time last year and 93% for the 5-year average. About 94% of the crop has emerged, compared with 84% this time last year and 83% for the 5-year average. About 3% of the crop is blooming, compared with 2% at this time last year and 4% for the 5-year average. The crop was described as 23% excellent, 62% good, 12% fair, 3% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Soybean Insects

It is still quiet concerning insects in soybeans. Caterpillars will be here quickly. On the next page are some reminders about what the moths look like that you will see in the field before you see caterpillars. Learning what the adults look like is a valuable skill in predicting what will happen after a week or two in the field – many hatching and hungry caterpillars. This can be especially important in our southernmost counties where velvetbean caterpillar (VBC) can show up where you have not previously treated for insects. Now that early season infestations of kudzu bugs are not likely, be on the lookout for VBC. The moths are easy to identify. As a reminder, use these hints to



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help you identify moths. Look for the snout on the green cloverworm, the widespread wings on VBC when at rest, the dark moths with light spots on the wings for soybean looper, and the light brown moths for corn earworm (CEW) (podworm, bollworm, etc.). Tobacco budworm (TBW) moths have the lines on the wings. Remember that CEW and TBW are indistinguishable to the naked eye in the field as caterpillars. If you can spot these moths “flushing” as you walk soybeans, you can get a sense of species composition between these species and avoid misidentification and use the appropriate insecticide for populations that are predominantly TBW. See our Pest Management Handbook for differences in control recommendations for these species. It is important!

Tobacco budworm moth at right. Looks identical to corn earworm caterpillar below.



	<p>CORN EARWORM 4 + 1 pair prolegs Curls up in hand Black “warts” on body</p>	
	<p>SOYBEAN LOOPER 2 + 1 pair prolegs Fatter at tail end Looping movement</p>	
	<p>VELVETBEAN CATERPILLAR 4 + 1 pair prolegs Very active when handled</p>	
	<p>GREEN CLOVERWORM 3 + 1 pair prolegs Not fatter at tail end Looping movement</p>	

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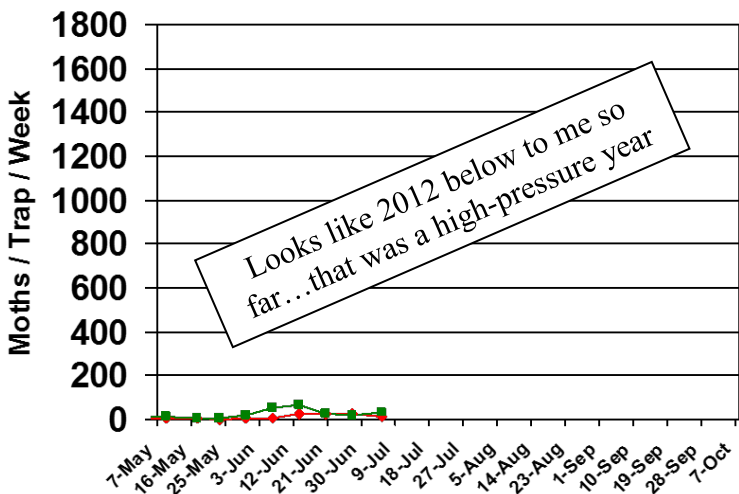
Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



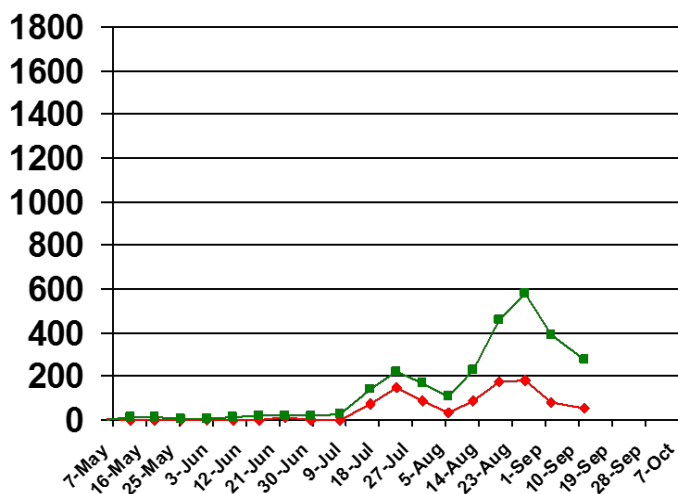
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2015 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I provide these data as a measure of moth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

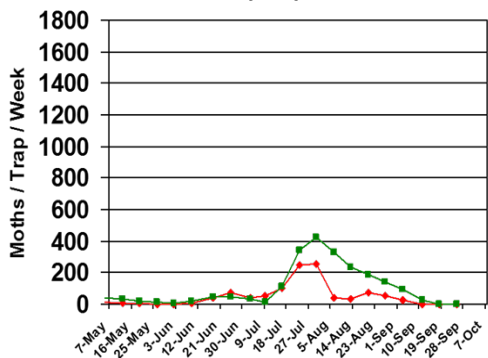


Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2015

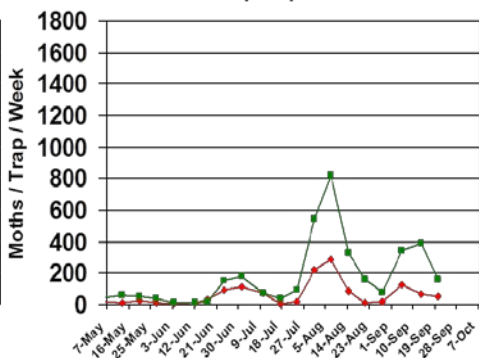


Trap data from 2012-2014 are shown below for reference to other recent years of trapping data from EREC:

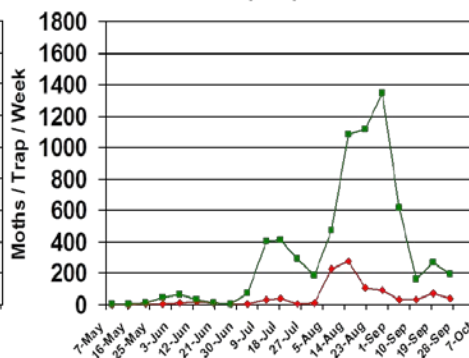
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2014



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2013



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2012



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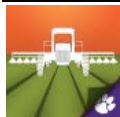
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Pest Management Handbook - 2016

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2016 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 Clemson University 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