



## *Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter*

Volume 11, Issue #12

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

22 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 “it’s pretty quiet in soybeans. Still seeing a few cloverworms but in very low numbers. Cotton aphids are building in a couple of spots, no sign of the fungus yet. Square and boll retention has been excellent so far. We’ve been getting fairly regular rain and the cotton hasn’t been stressed much if at all.” **Drake Perrow**, crop consultant, reported that he is starting control sprays for stink bugs. I observed threshold numbers of podworm (*H. zea*) in blooming soybeans this week, so get out and scout any soybeans that are blooming and setting pods. Moth numbers are up this week!

### *Training Opportunities*

We will be having our **Row-Crop Field Day on 11 August 2016**. Here is the link for the agenda:

<http://www.clemson.edu/public/rec/edisto/2016rowcropfieldday.pdf>

Also, we had a good field training with about a dozen consultants this week. We looked at soybeans and cotton and talked through sampling and decision making for insect problems. In-field trainings are productive. Thanks to Charles and Jonathan! Join us for future trainings.



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*Public Service Activities*

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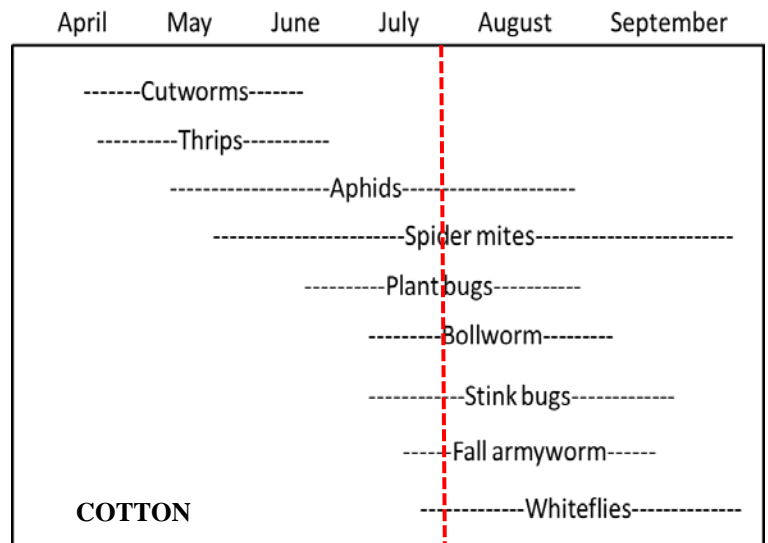


## Cotton Situation

As of 17 July 2016, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 75% of the crop was reported as squaring, compared with 68% at this time last year and 73% for the 5-year average. About 24% of the crop was reported as setting bolls, compared with 29% at this time last year and 31% for the 5-year average. The crop was described as 6% excellent, 34% good, 59% fair, 1% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

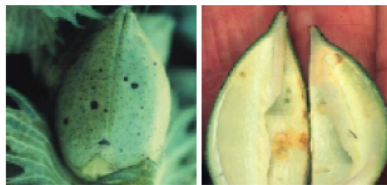
## Cotton Insects

Our moth captures (bollworm and budworm) in pheromone traps here at Edisto REC increased again this past week, and they continue to climb (see



## **Treatment Thresholds for Stink Bugs in SC Cotton**

- Examine 1 quarter-sized boll/acre, no less than 25/field
- Sort by those with and without obvious external lesions
- Open and inspect bolls for internal damage (warts or stained seed or lint associated with feeding puncture), beginning with the bolls displaying external injury
- Treat field if threshold is met for that week of bloom



Week of bloom	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Threshold (% internal damage)	50	30	10	10	10	20	30	50

charts below for moth counts). We will see pressure increase in terms of hatching bollworm eggs from now and into August. Thankfully, the Bt technologies will get most of the bollworms and all of the tobacco budworms. However, we still need to check cotton for caterpillars just to make sure no escapes are present. As you monitor for stink bug injury, check squares, blooms, and under bloom “tags” on small bolls to catch any caterpillars that escape control from the Bt proteins. It is almost stink-bug month (August), but get out and determine what week of bloom you are in by field (you should already know this, if your fields are blooming), and sample for bugs and boll injury. The decision aid card shown here can be used to assist with that sampling. Open the largest, soft bolls you can find, and those will be the correct size. Look for feeding symptoms and follow the dynamic threshold. See our updated Pest Management Handbook for thresholds and guidelines for control of stink bugs.

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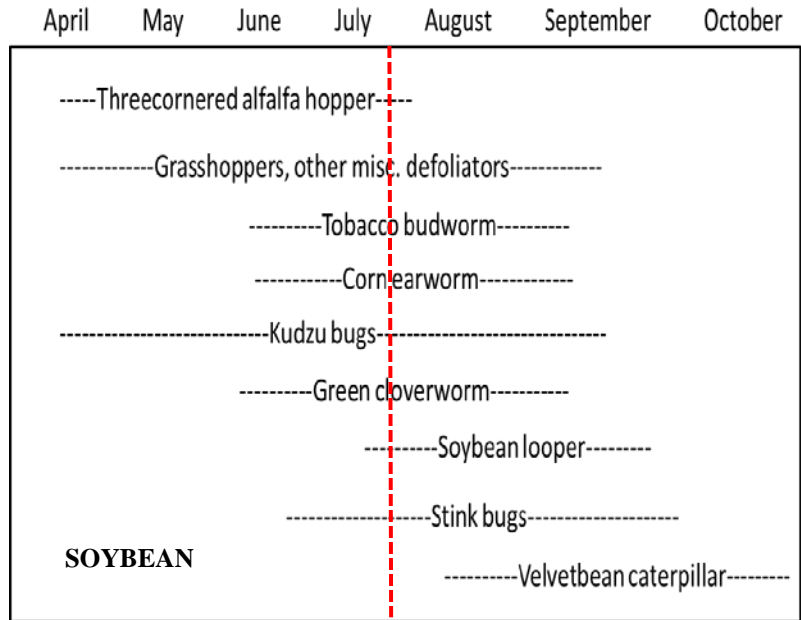


## Soybean Situation

As of 17 July 2016, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 24% of our soybean crop is blooming, compared with 10% at this time last year and 20% for the 5-year average. The crop was described as 18% excellent, 60% good, 18% fair, 4% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

## Soybean Insects

Caterpillars are here, so get out and scout your soybeans! We observed threshold numbers of podworm in MG5 soybeans this week that were right at R2. They seemed to be confined to the field edges in this one particular field, but that is not normal. Typically, they uniformly infest the field. We are also seeing some green cloverworms and soybean loopers, so there will be a mix of species for the remainder of the season. I am keeping the photos of the adults in the newsletter to serve as a reminder about identifying those species before you have the damaging immature life stage (caterpillars). Pay attention to the moths you flush as you walk fields. 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. See our Pest Management Handbook for differences in control recommendations for these species. We have seen kudzu bug numbers pick up also. Insects absolutely love soybeans, so there are many species to identify in the crop. Become proficient at identifying insects soybeans. I saw this one (left) this week. Can you identify it? Is it important? What would you do if you observed a “bunch” of them? Would you need to inform the producer?



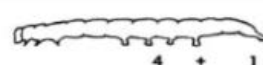

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Tobacco budworm moth at right. Caterpillar looks identical to corn earworm below.

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

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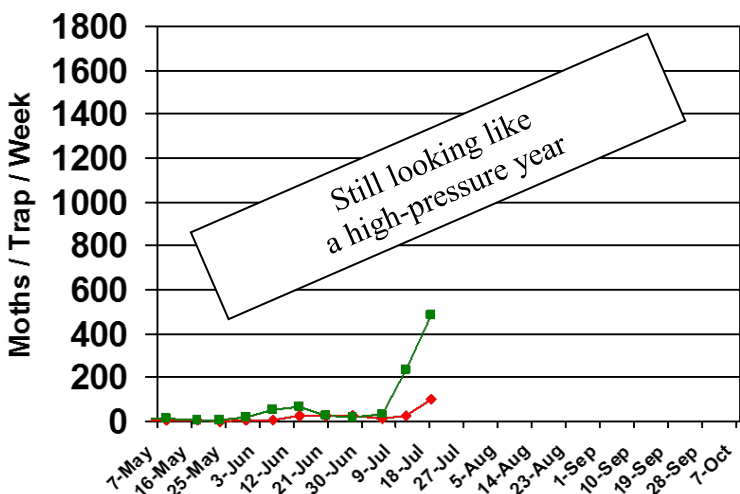
## Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



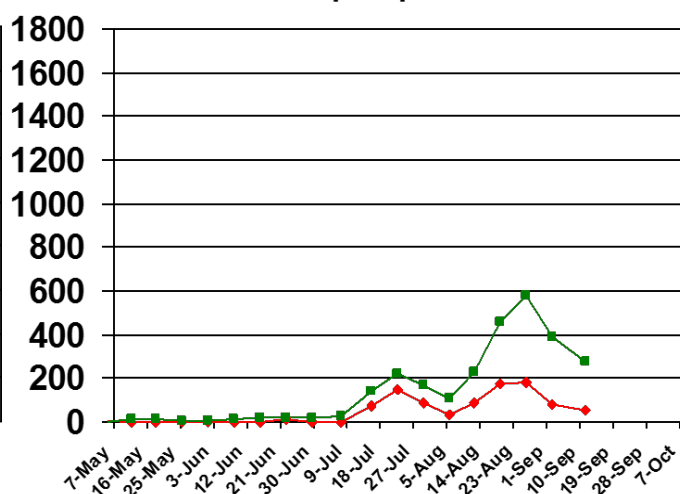
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2015 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I provide these data as a measure of moth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

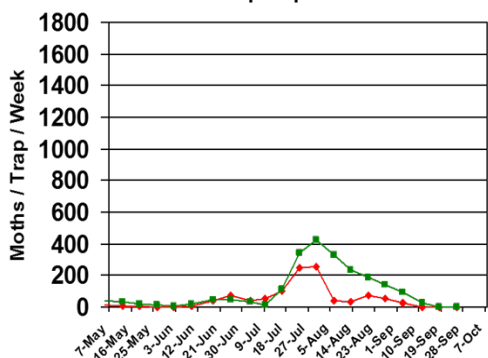


**Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2015**

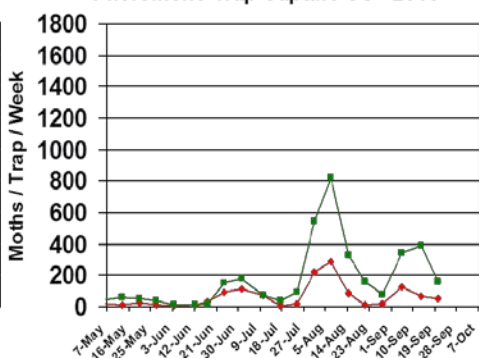


Trap data from 2012-2014 are shown below for reference to other recent years of trapping data from EREC:

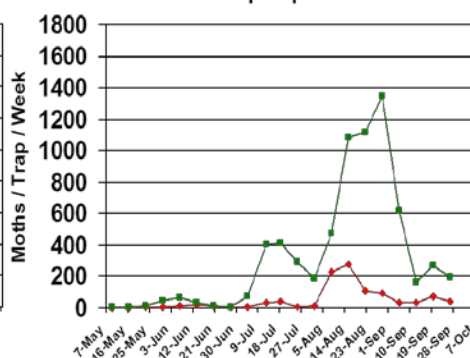
**Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2014**



**Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2013**



**Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2012**



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### **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](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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