Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 11, Issue #2 **Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC** **12 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 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.

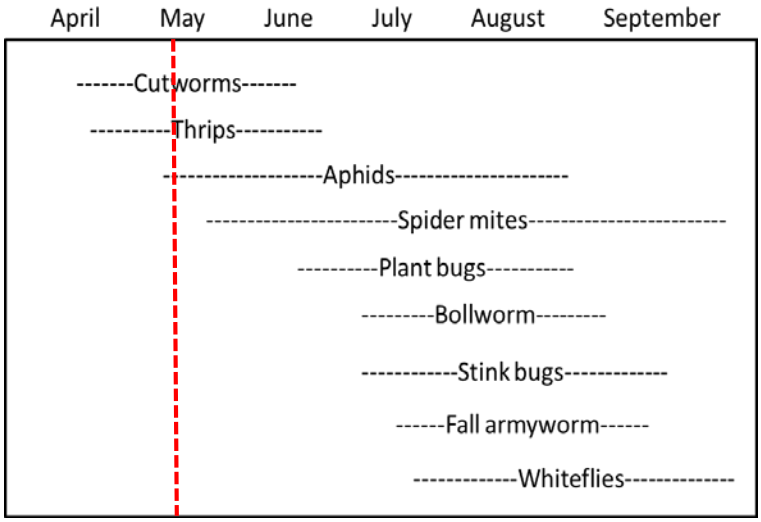
News from Around the State

There is not much news yet about cotton or soybean insects in the state. Here are some precautions from Dr. Mike Marshall on planting Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybeans in 2016. He asked me to distribute this for him: "Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybean varieties are now commercially available for planting in 2016. These soybeans offer over-the-top tolerance to both dicamba and glyphosate herbicides. However, as of the writing of this article (5/9/16), dicamba herbicide (any formulation currently on the market) cannot be legally sprayed in Xtend soybean (or XtendFlex cotton). Federal and state regulatory officials are closely monitoring these technologies (Enlist and Xtend) closely for any slip-ups (i.e., such as finding illegal residues of dicamba in these crops at the time of harvest). Misuse of this technology could further delay and/or hamper future development of new herbicide-tolerant technology in the U.S. In addition, Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybeans have not yet received all key export partner approvals at this time (European Union approval is still pending). This means Xtend soybeans will have to be segregated after harvest to prevent contamination of legally approved soybeans in the grain channel if full approval is not obtained by the end of the season. Growers are advised to consider the additional cost of cleaning their harvest machinery, grain carts and trucks, and storage facilities when planting these soybeans. ***These are precautions growers should take into account when making decisions about planting soybeans in 2016***."

Cotton Situation

As of 8 May 2016, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 31% of the crop has been planted, compared with 22% at this time last year and 27% for the 5-year average. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Cotton Insects



Last week, I shared with you some data from our planting date study for thrips last year. We very likely still within the window of planting where thrips will exert heavy pressure on the crop as it emerges and establishes a stand. In SC, decisions for what control options you will use for thrips at planting have likely already been made. Those include an insecticide seed treatment, such as Avicta Duo, Aeris, Cruiser, Acceleron, or Gaucho, made some time ago when you ordered your seed, in-furrow granular Thimet (phorate), or in-furrow liquid sprays of imidacloprid (Admire Pro, etc.) or acephate (Orthene, etc.). Although aldicarb is being sold and used in GA this year in a product called AgLogic 15G, it is not labeled for use in SC in 2016. You can still use Temik 15G, if you can find any, on any cotton until August 2018, but you cannot legally use AgLogic 15G in SC until it is labeled here, most likely for next year. If your at-planting insecticide decision has not been made (i.e. you have seed not treated with an insecticide), I would consider using any of the above options. I have had good success with imidacloprid, acephate, and phorate (Thimet) all used as in-furrow treatments. If you are using a seed treatment, plan to spray it with a foliar application during the 1st or 2nd leaf stage, when the seed treatment will likely no longer provide protection. There are some options there, and those include:

THRIPS

Product (foliar sprays)	Product/acre	Lb ai/acre	Acre/gal	REI	PHI	Comments
dicrotophos **(R)**		0.1-0.2		6 d	30 d	3.2 oz limit
Bidrin 8 E	1.6-3.2 oz		40-80			pre-square
acephate		0.18		24 hr	21 d	
Orthene/Acephate 97	3.0 oz		-			
Orthene/Acephate 90	3.2 oz		-			
dimethoate		0.125-0.25		48 hr	14 d	
Dimethoate 4 EC	4.0-8.0 oz		16-32			
spinetoram		0.0117-0.0234		4 hr	28 d	Adjuvant
Radiant 1 SC	1.5-3.0 oz		42.7-85.3			recommended

Or, we have had good success with combination treatments of seed treatment and another insecticide used in the furrow. Often, this can provide enough control to eliminate the need to come back with a foliar spray. That being said, use of a seed treatment and foliar application remains a fine approach to managing thrips in the crop, until resistance is full-blown. Although acephate (Orthene, etc.) has been the standard insecticide for foliar control of thrips in cotton because of its efficacy and relatively low price, it can flare spider mites on an early crop. If you have had a history of spider mites on early cotton crops, you might want to consider Radiant. Although it is more expensive than acephate, it will not flare spider mites like acephate.

I provided a couple of links below to resources on thrips last week…it is worth another post here. 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:

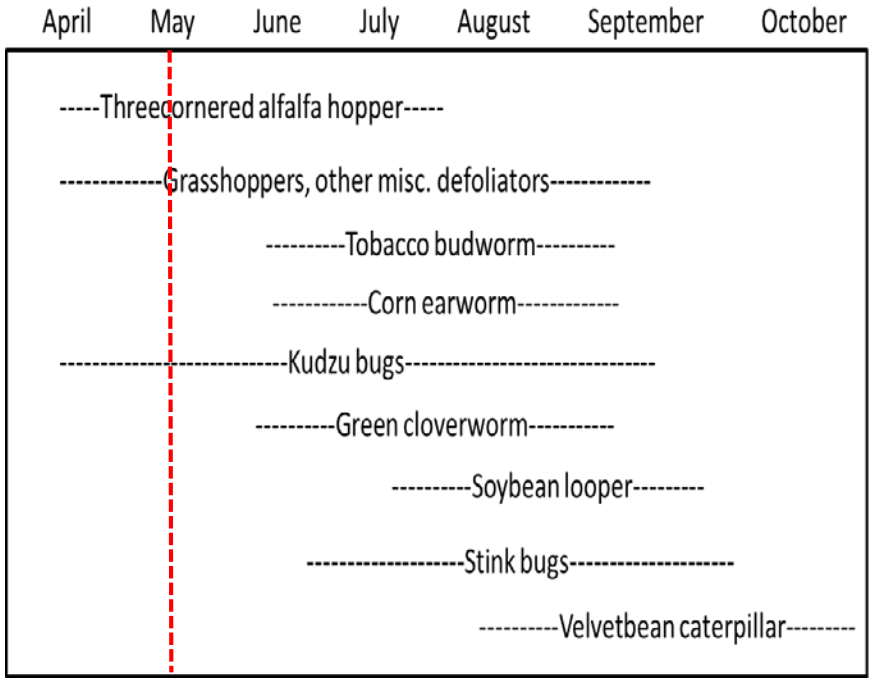
Herbert, A., D. Reisig, A. Huseth, G. Kennedy, J. Greene, F. Reay-Jones, P. Roberts, M. Toews, A. Jacobson, R. Smith, and T. Reed. 2016. Managing Thrips in Cotton: Research in the Southeast Region, ENTO-182NP, Virginia Cooperative Extension, 13 pp.
https://calscommproj.stl.vt.edu/Attachments/ENTO-182NP/ENTO-182NP%20Ldscpev5.pdf

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 8 May 2016, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 7% of our soybean crop has been planted, compared with 4% this time last year and 15% for the 5-year average. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Soybean Insects

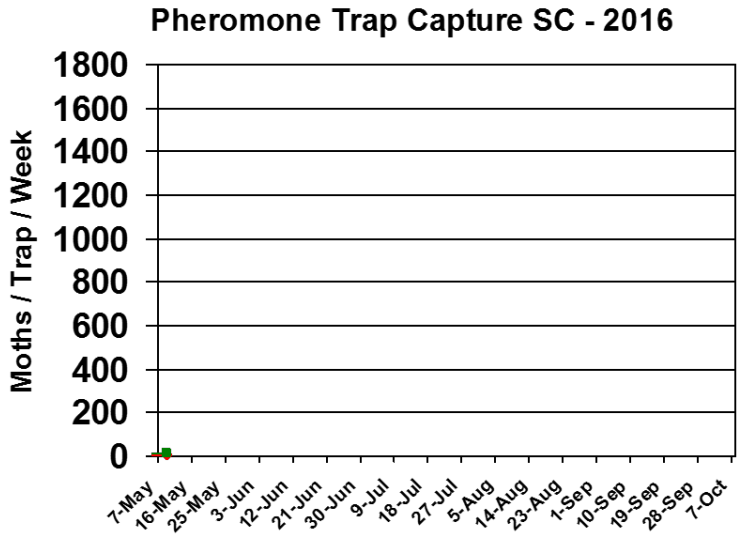


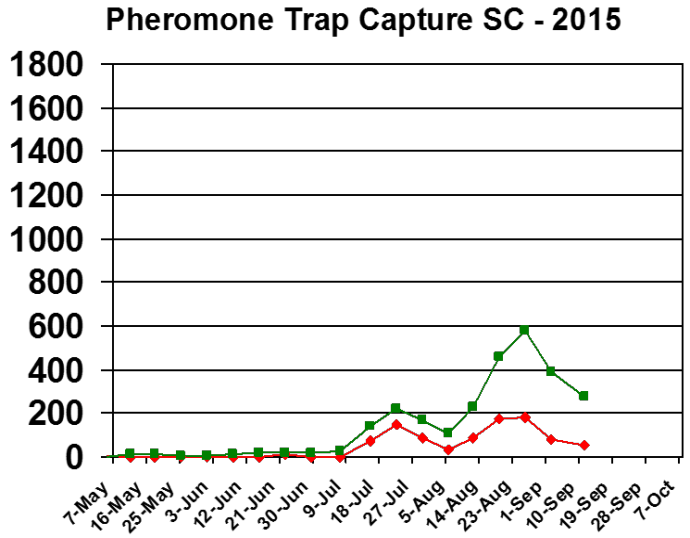
There is still not much to report on soybean insects, but that will change very soon. Numerous species of insects are very successful at developing on soybeans, so we will keep an eye on those as they become issues across the state. The usual suspects for early problems are grasshoppers, TCAH, and other miscellaneous beetles and true bugs. Although populations of kudzu bugs have been reduced in recent years, we still see some areas with significant numbers. We are pretty sure that the beneficial fungus *Beauveria bassiana* has been exerting tremendous pressure on the kudzu bug for the last few years. Despite the effectiveness of that natural control, we will still see some soybeans that are inundated with the species, although that will likely happen later in the season, rather than on early soybeans as we observed during 2011-2013.

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

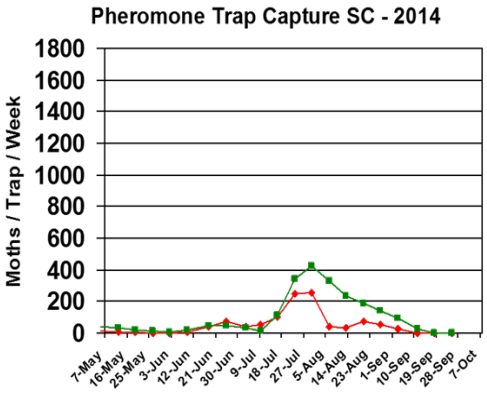
Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm

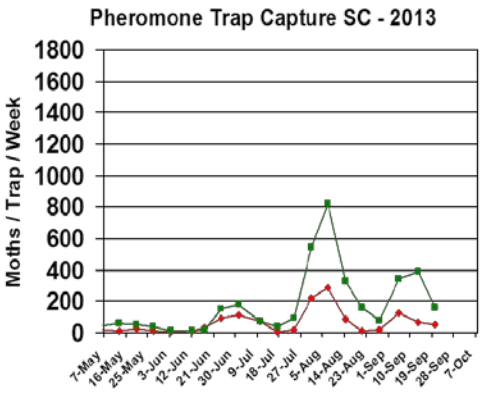
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2015 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I provide these data as a measure of moth presence and activity in our local area near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.

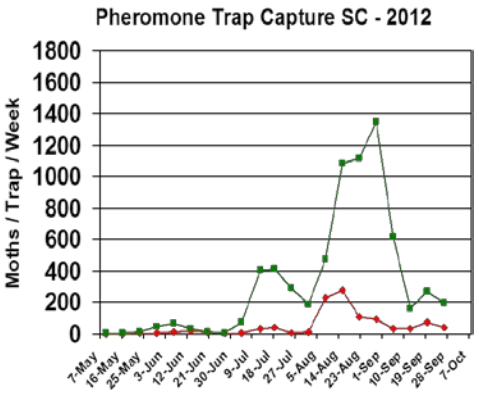




Trap data from 2012-2014 are shown below for reference to other recent years of trapping data from EREC:







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 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:
http://www.clemson.edu