



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 11, Issue #3

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

20 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

William Hardee, county agent covering Horry and Marion Counties, called today about something that many folks have been noticing and commenting about this planting season – grasshoppers! His concern was in soybeans planted into a rolled-down cover crop (rye), but I have observed this also in strip-tilled cotton this season. I have not heard of grasshopper feeding injury to cotton so far this year, but William reported some significant injury to the soybeans. The best thing to do is to wait for some injury to confirm that something needs to be done. My colleague with UGA in Tifton, GA, Dr. Phillip Roberts, has seen similar populations cause injury to almost every plant and cause no injury at all, so it is best to wait and see what will happen. Once you determine that an insecticide is needed, use the highest labeled rate of a pyrethroid or a very high rate of acephate. Chlorpyrifos (Lorsban, Nufos, etc.) has also worked in the past. Remember that Dimilin (a great material for immature insects) only works on immatures/nymphs and not on adults. There is a good section covering grasshoppers in the Pest Management Handbook under Soybean Insect Control.

Thrips have been an issue in cotton, particularly cotton planted near the end of April. Here is a photo of injury to cotton planted at that time without a preventative insecticide at planting. There is heavy damage on new growth.



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Public Service Activities

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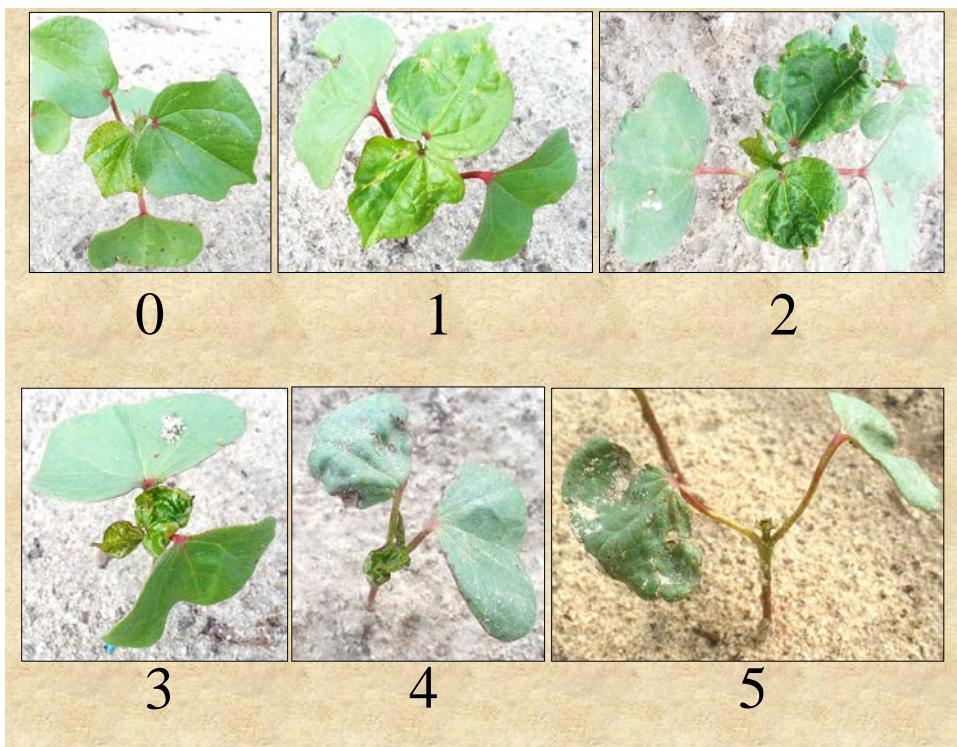
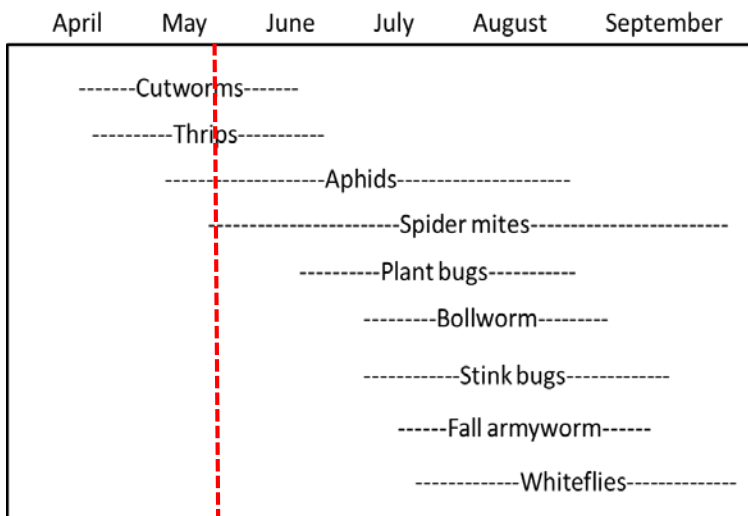
Cotton Situation

As of 15 May 2016, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 52% of the crop has been planted, compared with 56% at this time last year and 48% for the 5-year average. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Cotton Insects

Thrips, grasshoppers, deer, and weeds – did I leave anything out? Those are the combatants right now in cotton. I cannot help you with the weeds or much with the deer (working on deer, though), but we can cover thrips and grasshoppers. See my comments above about grasshoppers. For thrips, we covered at- and post-planting options in the last two newsletters. See Issues 1 and 2 for those details, but we will talk a little more about spraying for thrips. Shown below is a representation of a scale we use to rate research plots. We look primarily at the new leaves as they emerge, as they are the best indicator of current pressure from thrips. We usually get excited about spraying for thrips when we meet or exceed a rating of ‘3’ for feeding injury.

As you can see, cotton not protected before reaching ‘4’ or ‘5’ on this scale is likely going to be delayed or suffer some yield loss. If you determine that it is time to spray, consider everything that goes into that decision, such as insecticide + herbicide tank-mix combinations potentially causing injury to plants (some options will cause injury and others will not). Also, there are other items to consider as we move into herbicide systems that will require spray tips delivering very coarse droplets in the next year or two. It is prudent to mention that large droplets will be less effective in controlling insects.



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We will research droplet size and insecticide performance and talk more about that topic in the future. Below are our recommendations for foliar sprays for thrips in cotton. Spray when you see immatures (indicating at-plant insecticide is depleted), excessive injury to the newest leaves, and/or 2 or more thrips per plant.

THRIPS

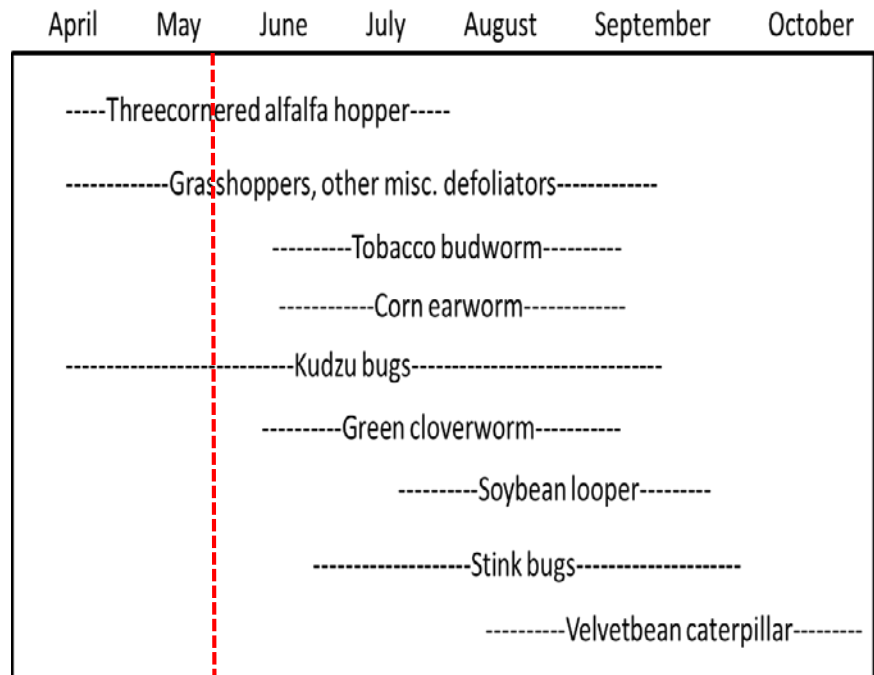
Product (foliar sprays)	Product/acre	Lb ai/acre	Acre/gal	REI	PHI	Comments
dicrotophos (R) Bidrin 8 E	1.6-3.2 oz	0.1-0.2	40-80	6 d	30 d	3.2 oz limit pre-square
acephate Orthene/Acephate 97 Orthene/Acephate 90	3.0 oz 3.2 oz	0.18	- -	24 hr	21 d	
dimethoate Dimethoate 4 EC	4.0-8.0 oz	0.125-0.25	16-32	48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

Soybean Situation

As of 15 May 2016, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 11% of our soybean crop has been planted, compared with 26% this time last year and 30% for the 5-year average. About 0-1% of the crop has emerged, compared with 14% this time last year and 14% for the 5-year average. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Soybean Insects

We mentioned grasshoppers in the newsletter last week as an impending, potential culprit, and they made the news this week. Check out the section on grasshopper control in soybeans in the Pest Management Handbook, but here are the comments from that section in the guide: "Grasshoppers can be a frequent problem on soybeans in reduced tillage systems. Eggs are deposited in the soil in pods and are not destroyed in minimum tillage. Re-infestation occurs from field edges and from eggs hatching in fields. OPs and pyrethroids work well on small grasshoppers at medium rates, but higher rates are needed for larger species. Dimilin, an insect growth regulator (IGR), works only on immatures and should be considered in minimum-tillage fields with a history of problems." Use the high rate of a pyrethroid!



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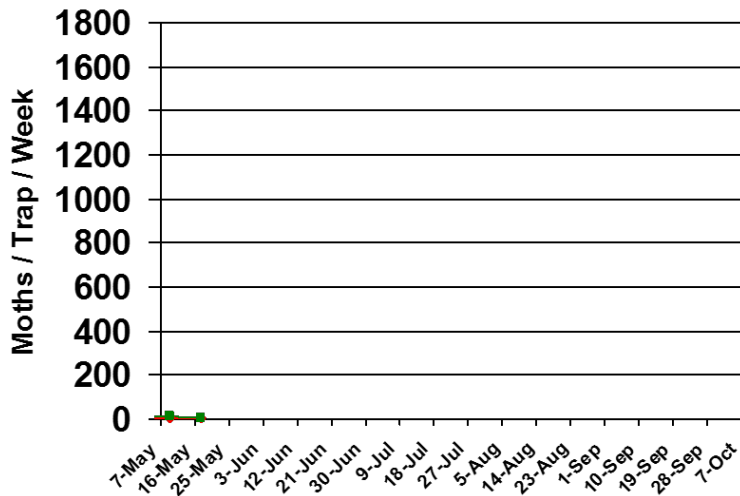
Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



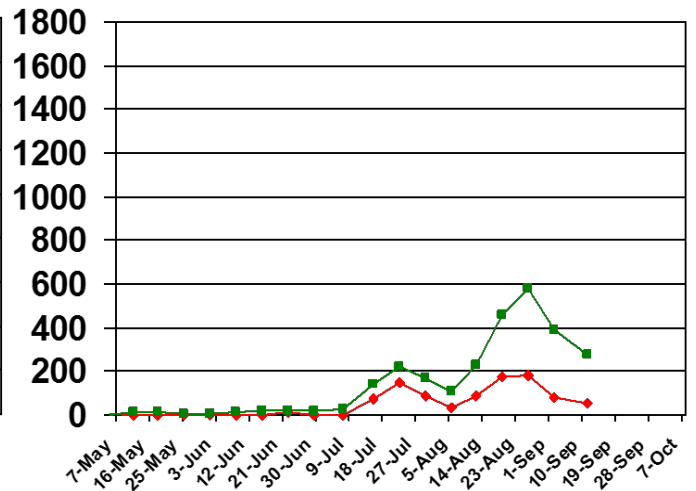
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2015 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I provide these data as a measure of moth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

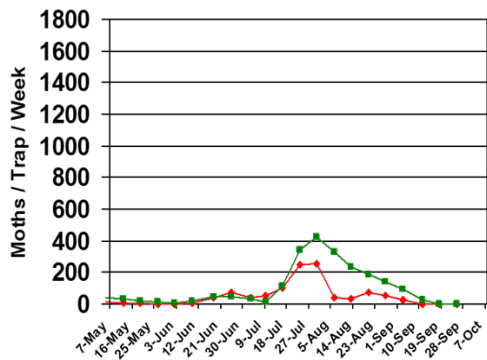


Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2015

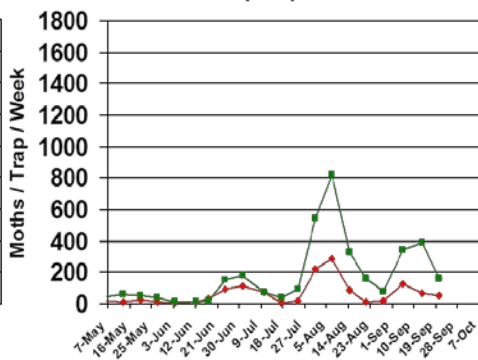


Trap data from 2012-2014 are shown below for reference to other recent years of trapping data from EREC:

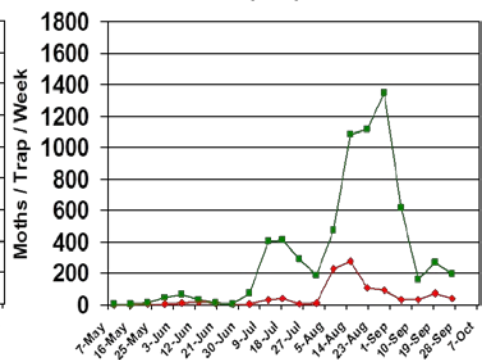
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2014



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

Sincerely,

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



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

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