



## Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 11, Issue #5

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

2 June 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

Marion Barnes, county agent covering Colleton County, reported that deer damage in cotton has been very noticeable. He mentioned that “the cotton that did survive 5 plus inches of rain over the weekend has a few thrips, but it’s not too bad. Deer are starting to browse isolated cotton fields since we have few soybeans planted yet.” Photos of some of that deer damage to cotton seedlings are shown here.



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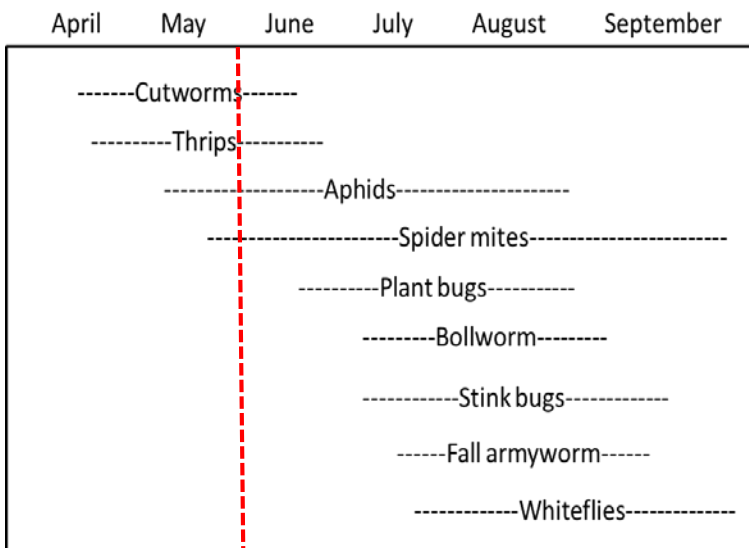


### Cotton Situation

As of 29 May 2016, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 71% of the crop has been planted, compared with 79% at this time last year and 81% for the 5-year average. The crop was described as 4% excellent, 35% good, 61% fair, 0% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

### Cotton Insects

I was helping Andrew Warner, county agent covering Hampton County, this week with a thrips trial he put out in his county, and the trial experienced almost 10 inches of rain. This probably drowned the thrips in the field, but it certainly made some areas of the field almost habitats for stocking with fish. The surplus of standing water has the seedlings stressed, for sure, and we noticed that when we pulled up plants to sample for thrips just how long the tap roots were on these seedlings. The ground was so saturated that it allowed us to pull up most of the tap root. It was amazing to see how long these roots were...haven't been reminded of just how long the tap root is on seedling cotton in some time. Thrips are not done yet, but the rain has reduced their numbers. Also, we had



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a report of spider mites on some fairly young cotton, but I am waiting on more information on that. I suspect that the issue will resolve itself with all of the rain, but it is concerning to have a report this early on young cotton. Finally, there was a report of cotton aphids infesting corn in southern Florida early last week (photo here courtesy of Dan Pitts). While this is unusual and not an economic issue in corn, it could be a warning sign for populations that might develop in cotton this year. Although I don't get too concerned about aphids in cotton [generally], aphids can impact a young crop, particularly one that is stressed. I bet the rains stop soon and things get dry...setting us up for problems with aphids and spider mites on a young crop. Keep an eye on your cotton in the next month...don't forget about it until bollworm and stink bugs get here in late July and August. We still need to monitor for potential problems during June and early July.

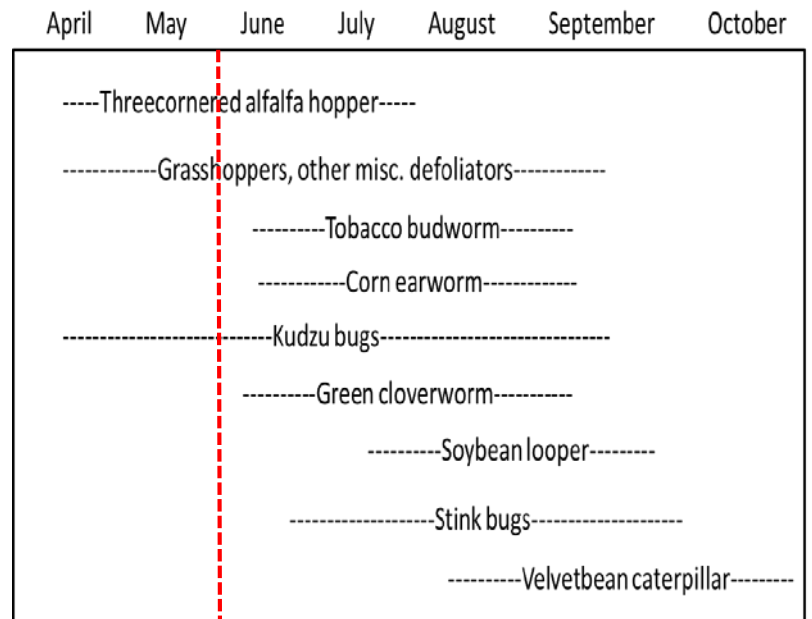


### Soybean Situation

As of 29 May 2016, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 57% of our soybean crop has been planted, compared with 43% this time last year and 50% for the 5-year average. About 30% of the crop has emerged, compared with 31% this time last year and 35% for the 5-year average. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

### Soybean Insects

Other than grasshoppers, I don't hear of or see anything else with 6 legs eating soybeans yet, but 4-legged mouths (deer) sure are a problem. We will continue to monitor soybeans for insect issues. As I mentioned in one of the first issues this season, we will be putting out a trial to address potential chemicals that might repel deer. Those will include a couple of at-plant insecticides, but we will also look at several other foliar insecticides and some repellents that are labeled for use in the crop as such. I hope to be able to report on this in the coming weeks. We are getting close to trial initiation on this one, and I am particularly curious about the insecticides and how they will perform as a repellent.



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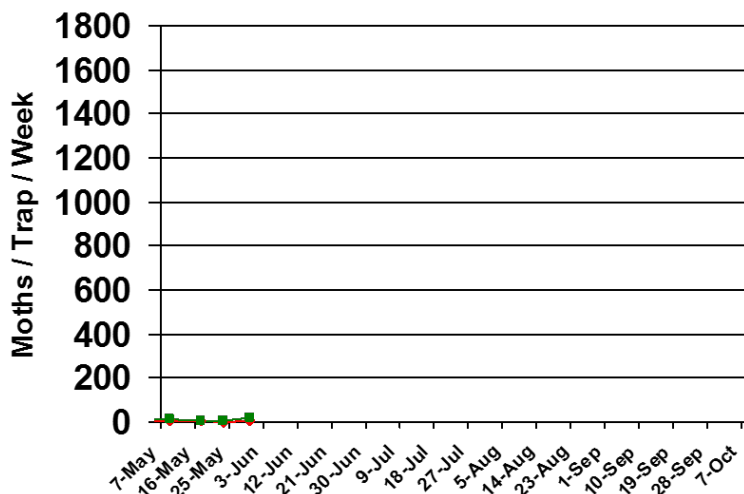
## Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



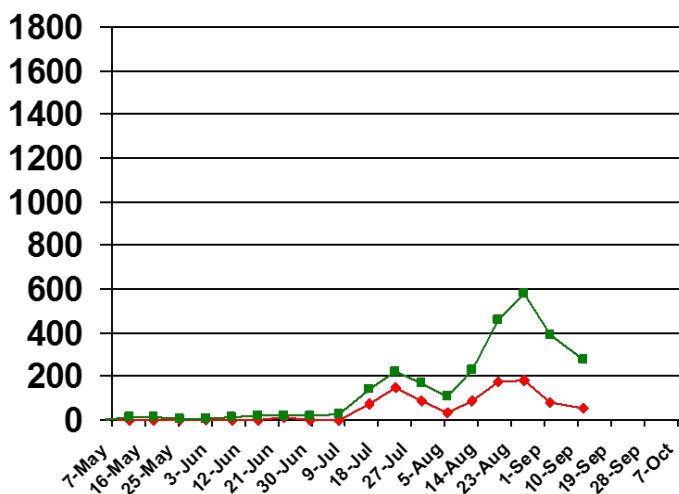
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2015 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I provide these data as a measure of moth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

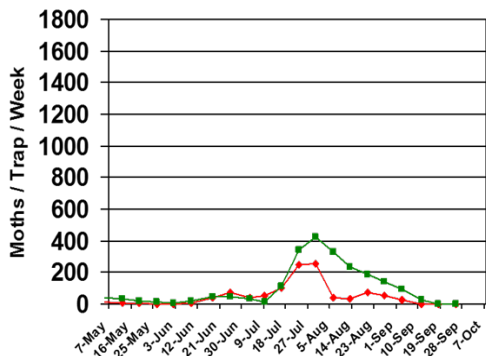


**Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2015**

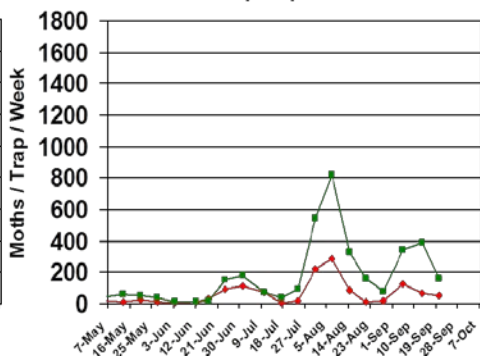


Trap data from 2012-2014 are shown below for reference to other recent years of trapping data from EREC:

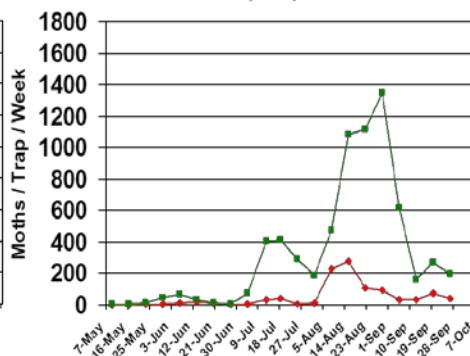
**Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2014**



**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



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