



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 11, Issue #9

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

1 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

Not much insect activity to report on this week. We are hearing of some increased activity with plant bugs in cotton, so check the square retention and look for adults with a sweep net! **Charles Davis**, county agent covering Calhoun and Richland Counties, and **Jonathan Croft**, county agent covering Orangeburg County, 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!

Cotton Situation

As of 26 June 2016, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 22% of the crop was reported as squaring, compared with 29% at this time last year and 28% for the 5-year average. The crop was described as 5% excellent, 41% 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 a couple of more weeks, until we start looking at bollworm and stink bugs, primarily, to end the insect season. Most problems with aphids should have eased with the aphid fungus and the recent rains and heat that have pushed the crop.

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Public Service Activities

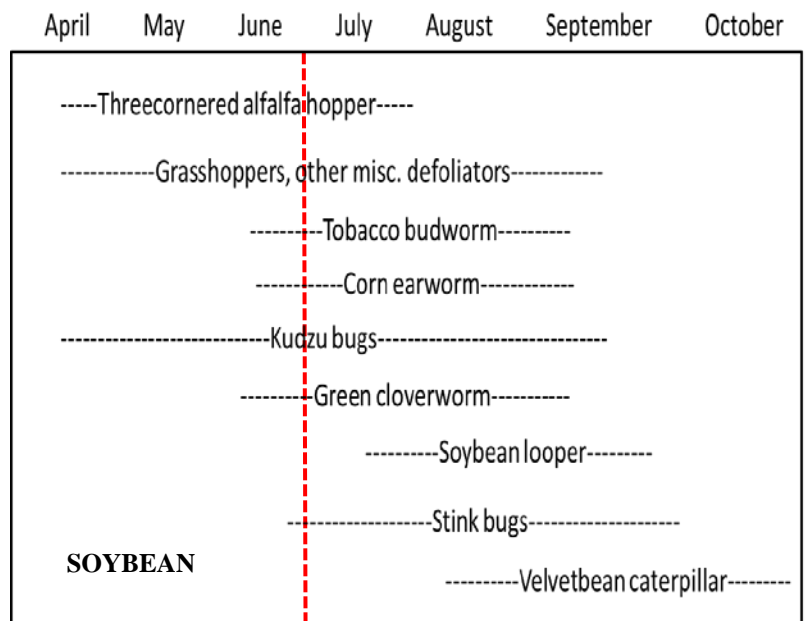
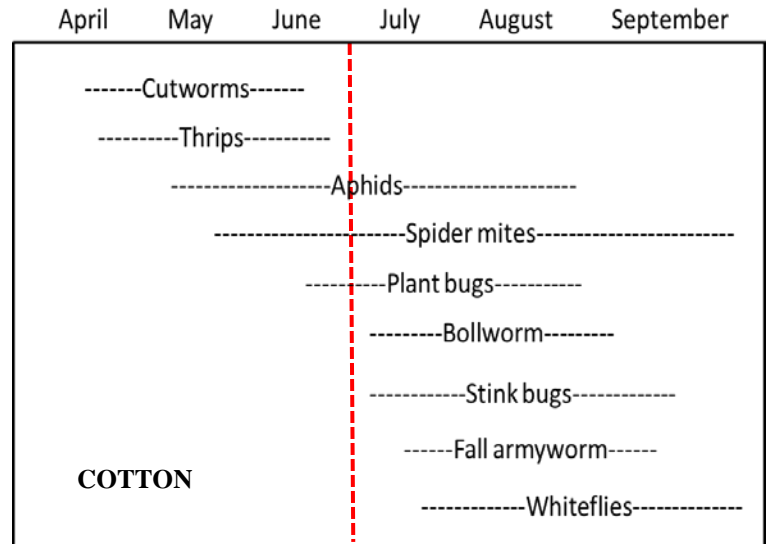
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The rains should have also helped with any issues with spider mites, but we still need to check for problems with these pests. There are some good photos and information about aphids and spider mites in the newsletter from last week. Check that out, in case you missed it. On to plant bugs...and much of this information is copied from last week because it is worth repeating about plant bugs – tarnished plant bugs (TPB) are going to be in the mix soon in some locations, although the species is not typically a widespread pest in SC. So, it makes our job tougher in having to look for something that may or may not be a problem. The best ways to check for TPB problems are to monitor square retention and use a sweep net to check for adults. You can use a drop cloth also, but early in the season, the sweep net is a better choice for spotting the adults. To check square retention, I like to look at the first position square a few nodes down from the terminal. 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. “Blasted” squares or those fed on by plant bugs that abort are dark in color and about to be shed. You will see some of these when checking for square retention, 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 26 June 2016, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 92% of our soybean crop has been planted, compared with 86% this time last year and 90% for the 5-year average. About 86% of the crop has emerged, compared with 79% this time last



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year and 75% for the 5-year average. About 1% of the crop is blooming, compared with 1% at this time last year and 2% for the 5-year average. The crop was described as 23% excellent, 64% good, 11% fair, 2% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

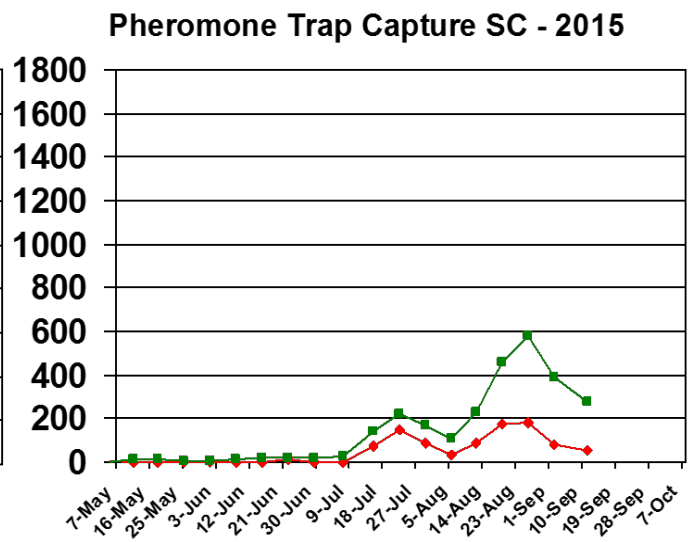
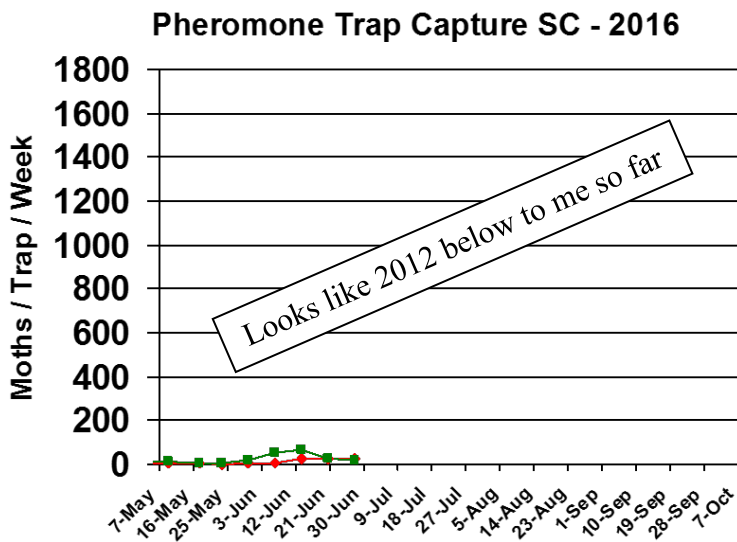
Soybean Insects

It is still quiet concerning insects in soybeans. Nothing much to report for this past week; however, there were some reports of lesser cornstalk borers (LCB) in peanuts and soybeans, so don't let your guard down. Walk some fields to see what is going on with insects. Soybeans are a favorite host of many insects, and problems can occur quickly. Defoliating caterpillars will be here quickly. As a side note, we do have a trial out with insecticides and repellents (a deer study), and a quick preliminary scan of the raw data seems to support that aldicarb (Temik) applied at 5 lb/acre at planting (we used a t-banded application over the row) does deter some injury from deer.

Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm

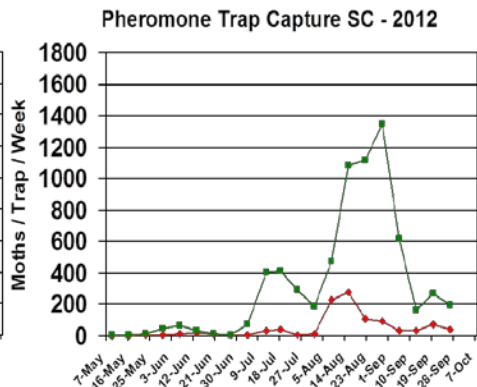
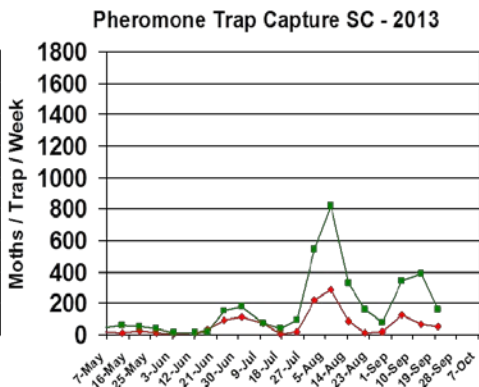
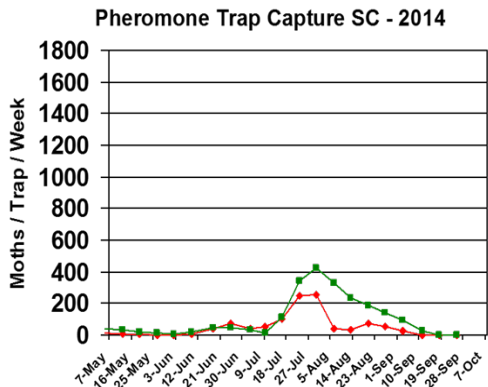


Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2015 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I provide these data as a measure of moth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

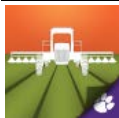
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Pest Management Handbook - 2016

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