



## Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 13, Issue #1

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

4 May 2018

### Pest Patrol Alerts

The information contained herein each week is available via text alerts that direct users to online recordings. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. After a new message is posted, a text message is sent to alert 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. Pest Patrol Alerts are 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

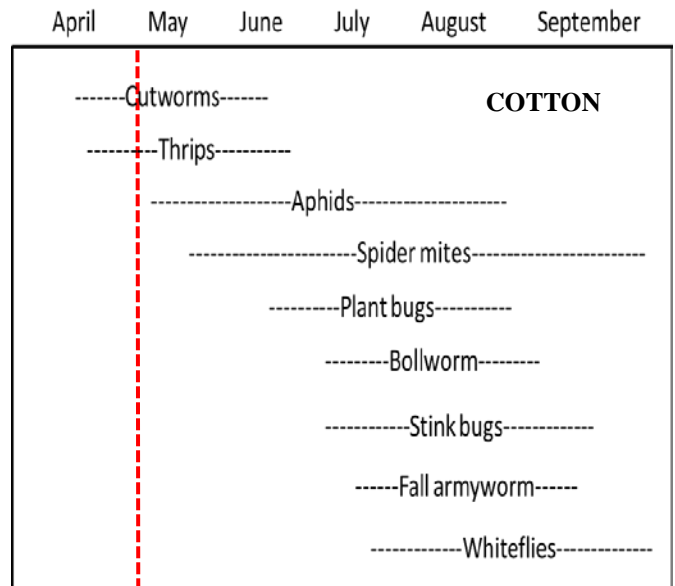
At this time last year, we were dealing with an abundance of grasshoppers, and there have been some calls already about grasshoppers and what to do about emerging cotton and soybean seedlings. So, stay alert for potential issues with grasshoppers. Also, **Jonathan Croft**, county agent covering Orangeburg County, reported that, while he has yet to look at any emerged cotton, he has noticed considerable injury from thrips on his garden okra and tomatoes. **Charles Davis** and **Trish DeHond**, county agents covering Calhoun, Richland, Chesterfield, Darlington, and Marlboro Counties, reported that our insect problems are “still in the ground or in the bag.”

### Cotton Situation

As of 29 April 2018, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 3% of the crop has been planted, compared with 1% the previous week, 16% at this time last year, and 11% for the 5-year average.

### Cotton Insects

Be watchful for issues with grasshoppers on seedlings. They transition from vegetation in the field to emerging stands of cultivated plants easily, especially when the burndown application was not done well in advance of planting. So, put some time between those



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events. While this will help tremendously, pods of grasshopper eggs will remain in the soil to hatch later, so you must keep an eye out for hatching nymphs. We do not till the soil like we used to do and mechanically destroy many of the pods, so these eggs will hatch and nymphs will emerge in greater numbers in minimum tillage fields and potentially be an issue. Young grasshoppers are fairly easy to control. When they mature and become large insects, insecticides are less effective on the large-bodied adults, as you just cannot get enough active ingredient into them.

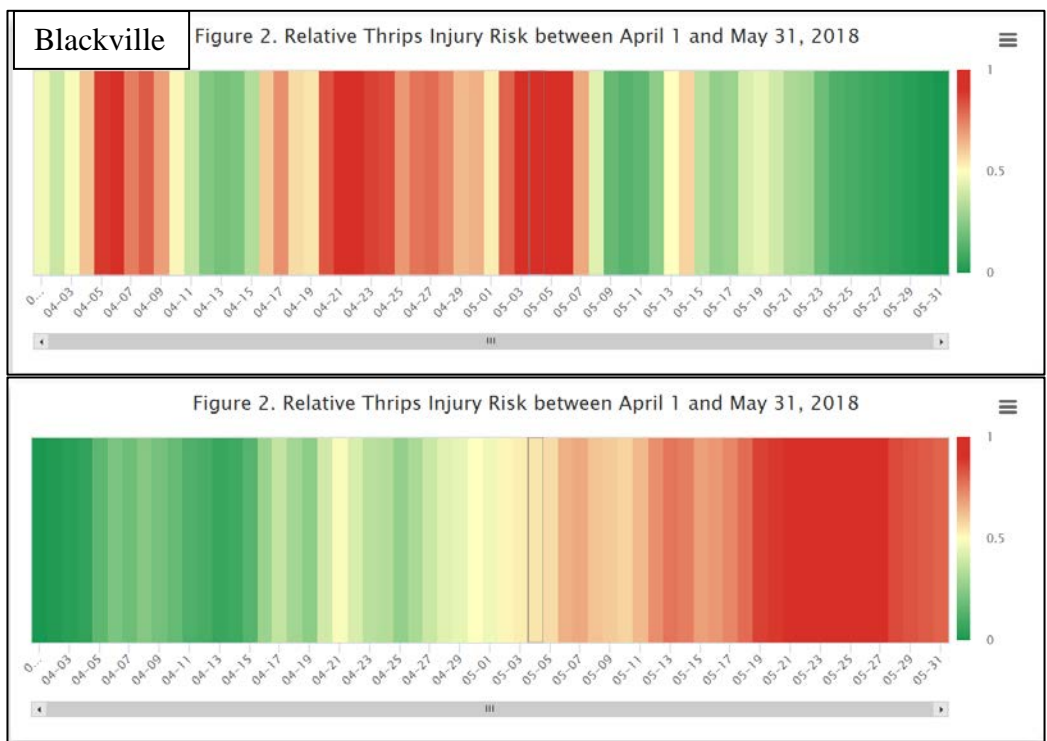
Thrips are, of course, another group of insects to monitor as seedlings emerge. I have planted demonstration strips of cotton every week since 13 April this season, and emerged plants are starting to show injury from thrips. If you haven't checked out the online tool to help predict risk from thrips injury in cotton in your area, here is the link:

<http://climate.ncsu.edu/CottonTIP>

We helped provide data for the development and

refinement of the model to predict risk from thrips (specifically tobacco thrips) injury in cotton, and you can use that tool to estimate the risk of your fields with planting date as a VERY important variable. The model uses weather data (historical and forecasted), biological information about tobacco thrips, and many other parameters to calculate risks.

To use the TIP tool for cotton, select your field location on the map (zoom in and mark the field with a pin...the coordinates are displayed), enter your planned planting date, and hit 'Submit' to see the results. Here is what you see when you navigate to the site, select a planting date (I entered 4 May 2018), and mark a field location on the map. You then hit the 'submit' button. You will get a series of charts. The first chart will show you



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risk comparisons for the current year and the previous 5 years. This gives a relative comparison across recent years, so you can use your memory and experiences from recent years to see how this year will likely look. The next chart (shown above for Blackville and Florence, SC) shows how planting date for your field will impact risk for thrips injury. 'Red' represents elevated risk later on for cotton planted on that date, and 'green' represents reduced risk for that planting date. At my location near Blackville, this week is the last predicted heavy period for thrips injury risk, while the end of May is predicted to be the highest risk period in Florence. The middle of the state (e.g. Orangeburg) is somewhere in between these predictions. Options for controlling thrips are shown on the slide here.

### Insecticide Options for Thrips

- At-plant options
  - Do nothing...not an option...unless planting late?
  - Neonicotinoid seed treatments (thiamethoxam [Cruiser, Avicta] and imidacloprid [Gaucho, Aeris])
  - Hopper-box treatment (acephate)
  - In-furrow granular material
    - Aldicarb (Temik, AgLogic)
    - Phorate (Thimet)
  - In-furrow liquid material
    - Imidacloprid (Admire Pro, Velum T., etc.)
    - Acephate (Orthene, etc.)
  - A combination of the above
- Post-plant options
  - Foliar sprays (acephate, Radiant, etc.)



## Soybean Situation

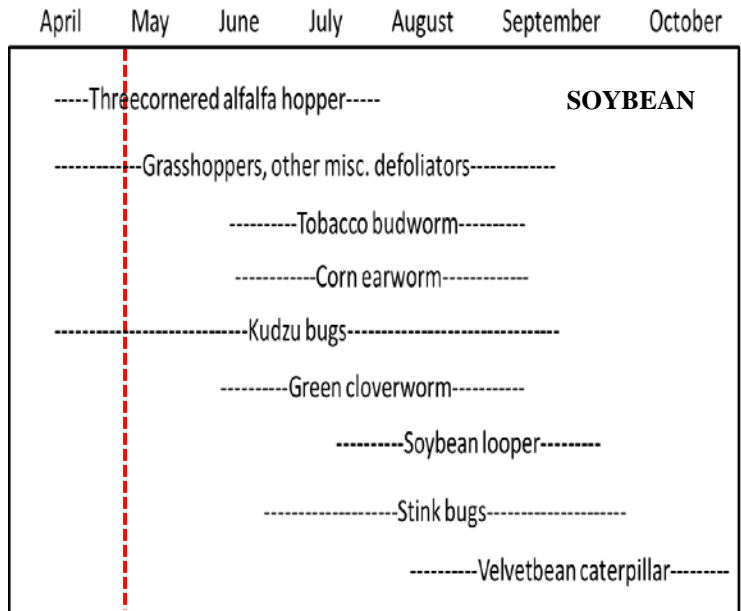
As of 29 April 2018, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 0% of our soybean crop has been planted. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

## Soybean Insects

Because we are still very early into planting for soybeans, there are few issues with insects, but potential problems with grasshoppers (covered in the 'Cotton Insects' section) apply to soybeans also. Another issue that should be discussed as an early season issue is injury from hoppers, primarily threecornered alfalfa hopper. This insect can move in on early vegetative soybeans before we typically do much scouting and cause damage that goes unnoticed until much later. Stem girdling caused by feeding can weaken plants, cause stand loss, or lodging later, resulting in lost yield. We might be sustaining damage on early planted soybeans that we are not noticing.



Kudzu bugs were also back in larger numbers last year than in previous years, so they should not be ignored. Finally, we had a report of slugs on seedlings. There are some bait products that provide some level of control of slugs...insecticides are mostly ineffective on slugs.



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## Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



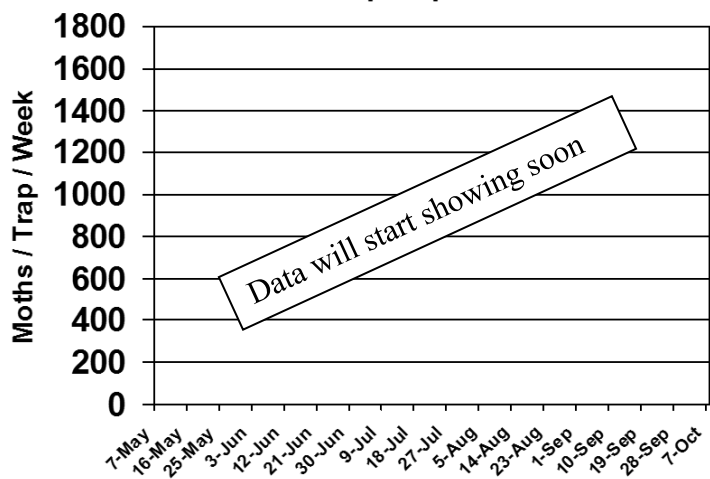
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2017 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I provide these

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.

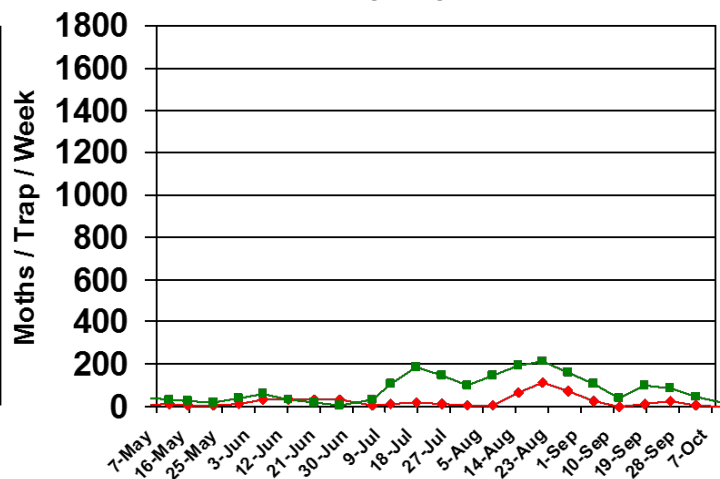
TBW  
BW



### Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2018

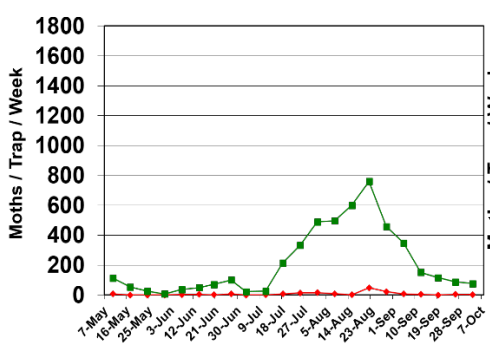


### Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2017

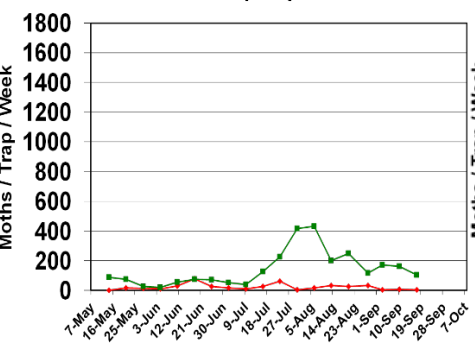


Trap data from 2007-2016 are shown below for reference to other years of trapping data from EREC:

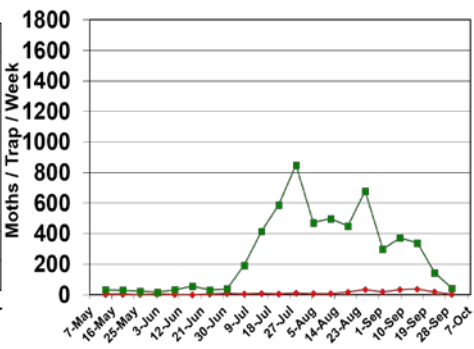
### Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2007



### Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2008



### Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2009

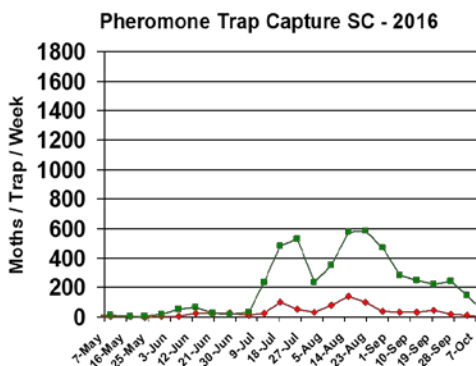
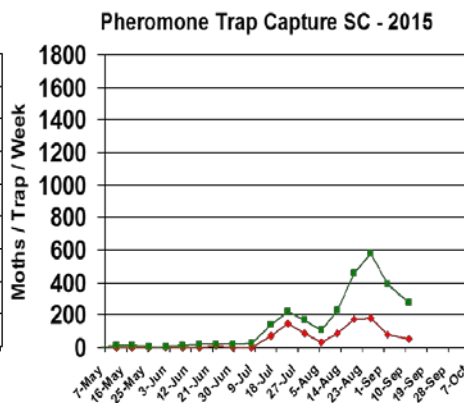
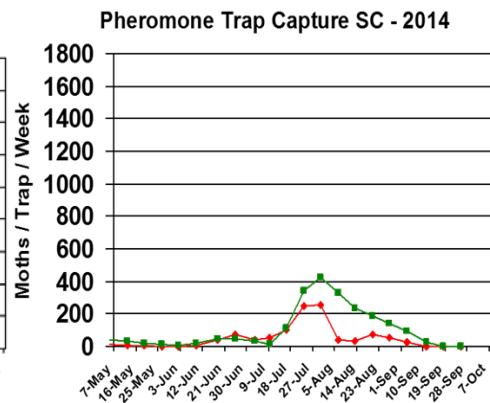
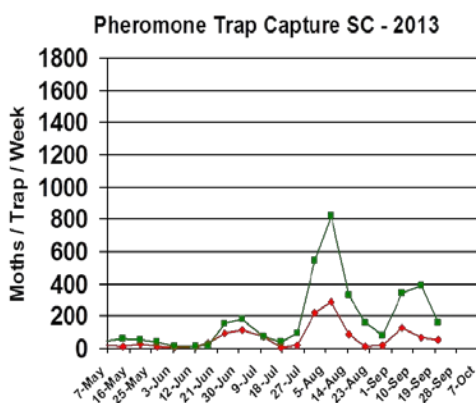
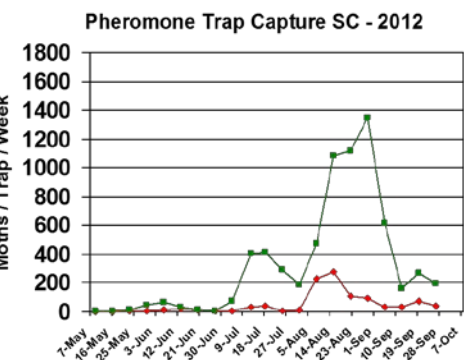
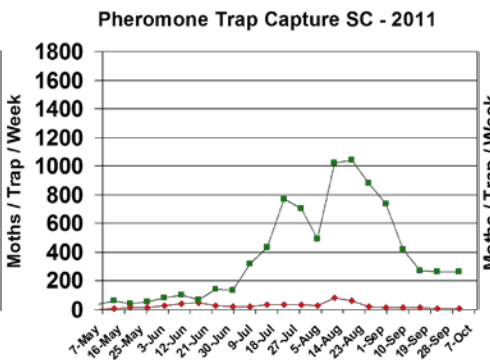
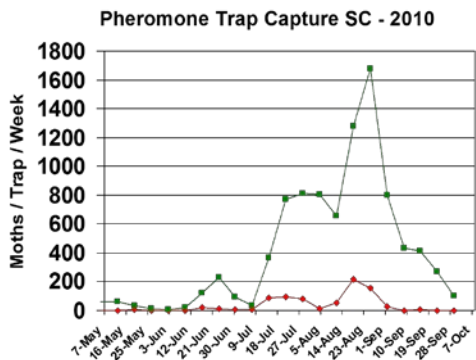


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## ***Pest Management Handbook – 2018***

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2018 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/pest%20management%20handbook.html>

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<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/agronomy/cotton1/newsletters.html>

Sincerely,

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



Visit our website at:  
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