



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 13, Issue #11

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

13 July 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

Charles Davis, county agent covering Calhoun and Richland Counties, reported that “our biggest insect problem in cotton this week is high aphid populations in some fields. We have sprayed a few, but I just found out from **Drake Perrow** that the aphid fungus is here in the Cameron area, so, hopefully, the need for chemical control will soon be past. PGR applications are going out on the blooming cotton, but we have a lot of cotton just hitting 5 nodes.” **Mitch Binnarr**, representative with Corteva Agriscience, reported that he is seeing many aphids and spider mites in the Pee Dee Region and that producers are looking at spraying. Here is a shot he took of some cotton leaves with typical stippling on the upper surfaces that indicate leaves are heavily colonized on the undersides with spider mites. **Tom Smith**, a local consultant, reported that cotton growth varies from 6-10 true leaf to 3rd week of bloom. Aphids and spider mites still building, and bollworm moth and stink bug activity increasing, and treatments have started for bollworm and stink bugs on older cotton (late 2nd to 3rd week of bloom). Tom took the shots of brown stink



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bugs (BSB) here on some of his older cotton this week in Hampton and Barnwell Counties.

Fleming McMaster, a local consultant reported that he is seeing brown stink bugs in cotton and soybeans – not at treatment levels yet, but seeing them. He also has not observed the aphid fungus yet in his area of southern SC. Also, we had a report from a NC-based consultant that crosses the line into SC that he was picking up fields in the second field of bloom with greater than 40% stink bug damage in Marion County. With these reports



of stink bugs in some of the older cotton, we need to ensure we are using the boll-injury threshold and looking for stink bugs. Just good observation, as that used by Tom here, lets you know what you have. Use bifenthrin for hard-to-kill BSB!

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Scouting Workshops (first one next week!)

Your ag-focused county agents and I will be offering three **in-field scouting workshops** for cotton and soybean insects this summer. The interactive workshops will be held:

1. **18 July in Cameron, SC** (please RSVP with either Jonathan Croft [croft@clemsun.edu] or Charles Davis [cdvs@clemsun.edu], so we can plan for lunch)
2. 31 July in Lake City, SC (please RSVP with either Hannah Mikell [hmikell@clemsun.edu] or 803-435-8429] or Jacob Stokes [stokes3@clemsun.edu], so we can plan for lunch)
3. 7 August at the Edisto REC near Blackville, SC (again, so we can plan for lunch, please RSVP with either me [green4@clemsun.edu], Mary Katherine Bamberg [mbamber@clemsun.edu], Joe Varn [jvarn@clemsun.edu], or Marion Barnes [jbrns@clemsun.edu]).

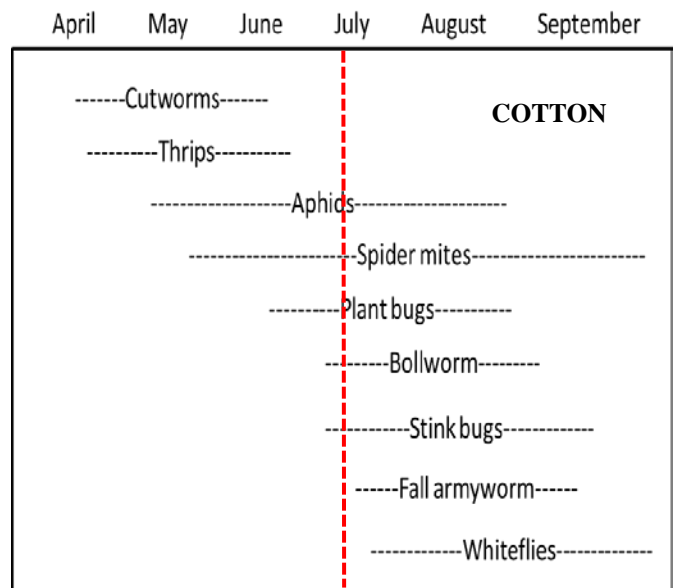
The trainings will be free to attend, start in the morning, and end with lunch. Stay tuned for more information. Detailed information will be sent out as each training date approaches.

Cotton Situation

As of 8 July 2018, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 49% of the crop is squaring, compared with 35% the previous week, 55% at this time last year, and 53% for the 5-year average. About 5% of the crop is setting bolls, compared with 0% the previous week, 15% at this time last year, and 14% for the 5-year average. The condition of the crop was described as 13% excellent, 75% good, 10% fair, 2% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Cotton Insects

We still have plenty of aphids, but there was a report this week of the aphid fungus in the middle of the state. So, if you haven't treated for aphids, and the crop looks like it is not suffering from the additional stress, you might be able to save some money on control of aphids. However, the fungus is not as predictable as it used to be, so, if there is clearly stress, you might want to remove the aphids as a stressor. If you need another reason to spray for aphids, we are getting close to needing to be able to see bollworm eggs on leaves, and aphids make that almost impossible. However, keep in mind that the neonicotinoids might or might not provide good control – see our handbook for a list of recommended products. Expect to see only about 50% control of a neonic-tolerant population, at best. **Do not** apply Bidrin for aphids this time of year – right before we see bollworms. I did that this week to kill my aphids AND to make problems by releasing bollworm from beneficial arthropods that were decimated by the Bidrin application. Counts of bollworm moths in our pheromone



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traps have started to increase, so we are at the beginning of a flight out of corn. You don't want to kill all of your beneficials right before that, unless you are conducting research on the species and want to cause problems! Scout for bollworm and stink bugs...we will cover those insects in the coming weeks.

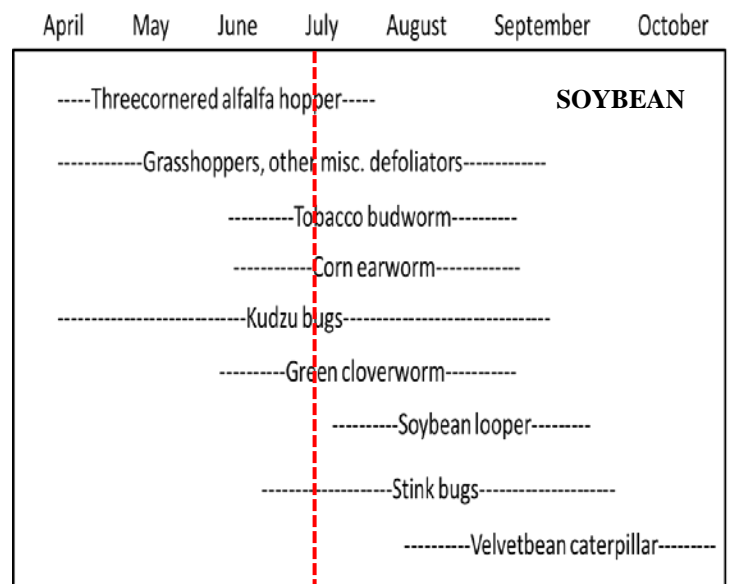
Spider mites made some headway this week with the hot temps, reduced humidity, and little rainfall. Hopefully, the scattered storms will keep coming and washing away spider mites. For now, take a hand lens with you and check for mites under leaves. At least look for the stippling on upper surfaces of leaves, but know that you are a little late on noticing them at that point.

Reports of plant bugs as an issue have declined, but continue to look for tarnished plant bug (TPB) using a drop cloth once flowering starts. Get a black drop cloth to help you see the tiny green nymphs. I will be giving away a few of these at the upcoming workshops. Numbers of nymphs doubled from last week in my trials, although we are still well below the threshold (about 1 TPB [adult or nymph] every other rowft) used in the midsouthern states, where they routinely battle this pest.

Finally, we will have a lot of brown stink bugs (myself and others have not seen many 'green' species so far this season) moving out of drying corn into cotton very soon.

Soybean Situation

As of 8 July 2018, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 96% of our soybean crop has been planted, compared with 93% the previous week, NA% at this time last year, and NA% for the 5-year average. About 90% of the crop has emerged, compared with 87% the previous week, 92% at this time last year, and 89% for the 5-year average. About 5% of the crop is blooming, compared with 1% the previous week, 15% at this time last year, and 10% for the 5-year average. The condition of the crop was described as 8% excellent, 66% good, 23% fair, 3% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.



Soybean Insects

Most of the crop is still young, so there still are not a lot of reports of issues at this point. Soybeans in the vegetative stage still need attention for potential problems with insects, such as stem feeders like threecornered alfalfa hopper (TCAH) and kudzu bugs. Remember, injury by TCAH has already been reported in soybeans. Scout your young soybeans!

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Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm

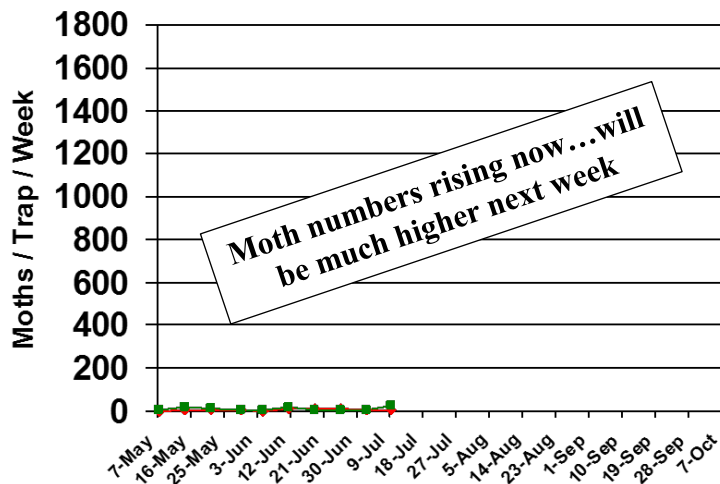


Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2017 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I provide these

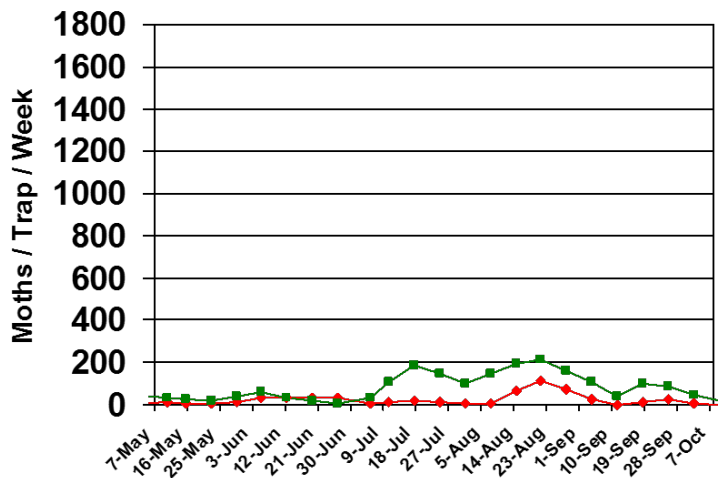
data as a measure of moth presence and activity in our local area near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2018

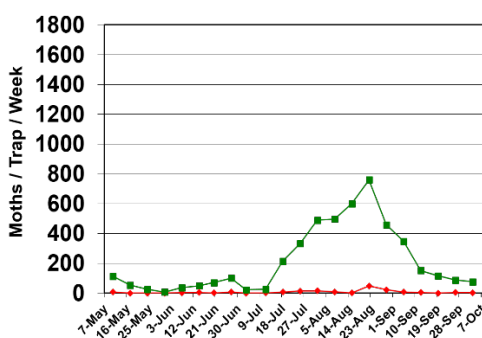


Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2017

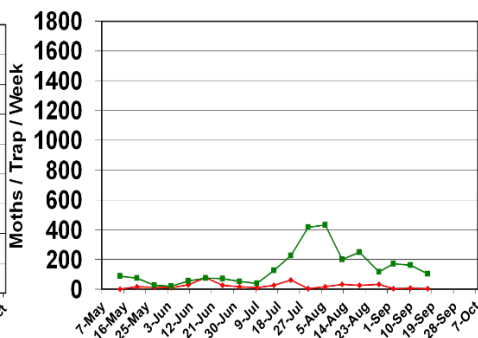


Trap data from 2007-2016 are shown below for reference to other years of trapping data from EREC:

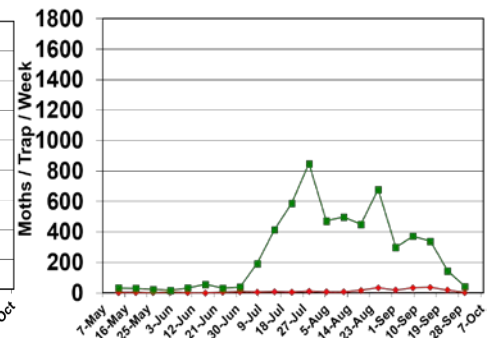
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2007



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2008



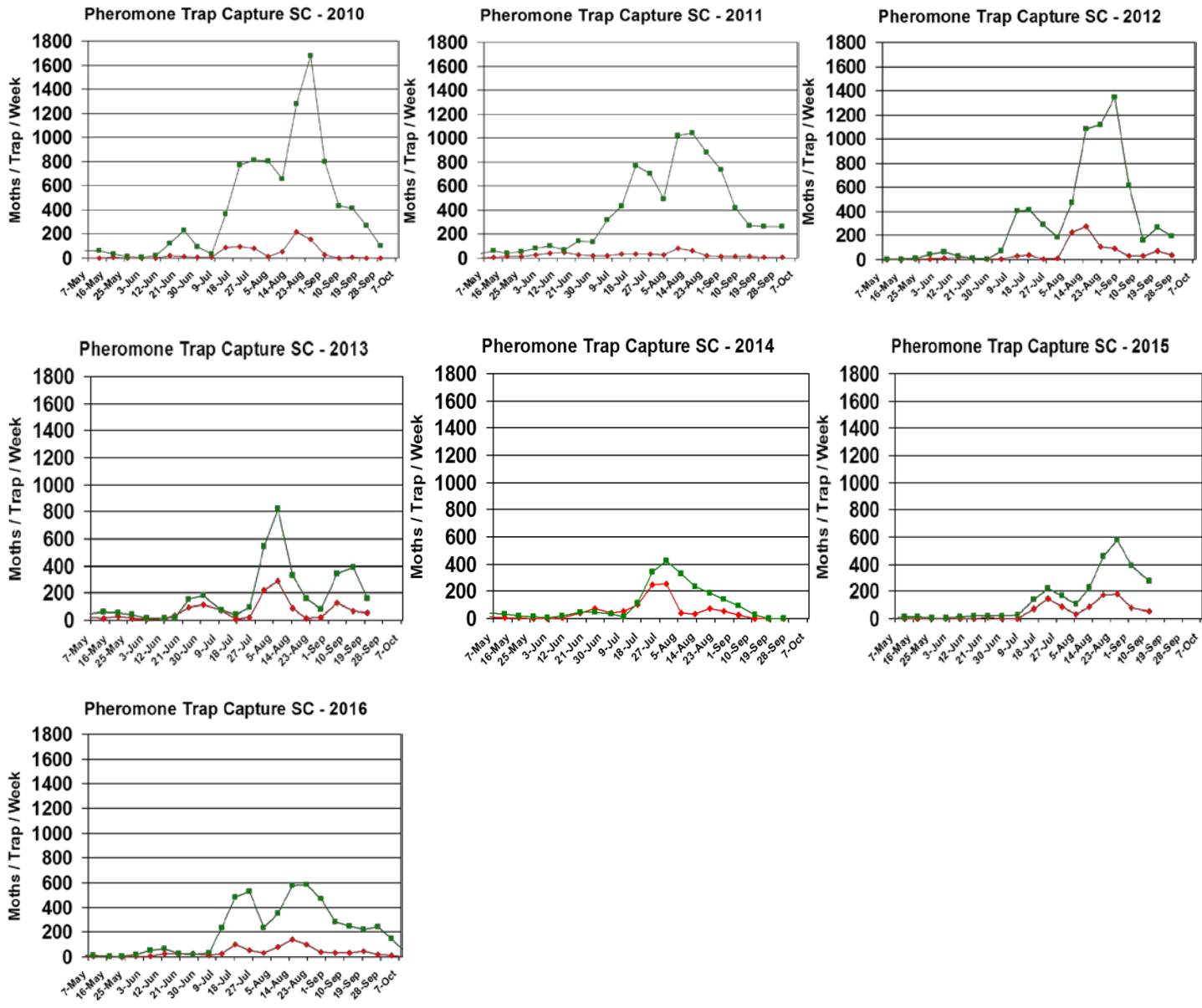
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2009



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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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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/agronomy/cotton1/newsletters.html>

Sincerely,

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



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

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