



## Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 13, Issue #15      Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC      10 August 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

**Jonathan Croft**, county agent in Orangeburg County, reported that he has “been looking at some soybeans across Orangeburg County today [yesterday] and have been seeing increasing numbers of worms. It is a mix of soybean loopers, green cloverworms, and even a couple VBC. Numbers have been right at threshold. I am also hearing the same thing from some fellows that have been scouting beans in the area as well. It looks like we will have some beans sprayed this weekend or first of next week for worms. Also came across a few borers today in one area of a soybean field outside of Orangeburg. A photo here.



### Scouting Workshops (all done and successful)

Your ag-focused county agents and I offered three **in-field scouting workshops** for cotton and soybean insects this summer. If you liked these interactive workshops, let us know.

1. ~~18 July in Cameron, SC~~ (was a big success, thanks to Jonathan Croft and Charles Davis)
2. ~~31 July in Lake City, SC~~ (was a big success, thanks to Hannah Mikell)
3. ~~7 August at the Edisto REC~~ (was a big success, thanks to Mary Katherine Bamberg, Joe Varn, and Marion Barnes. Here is a photo from our training this past Tuesday.



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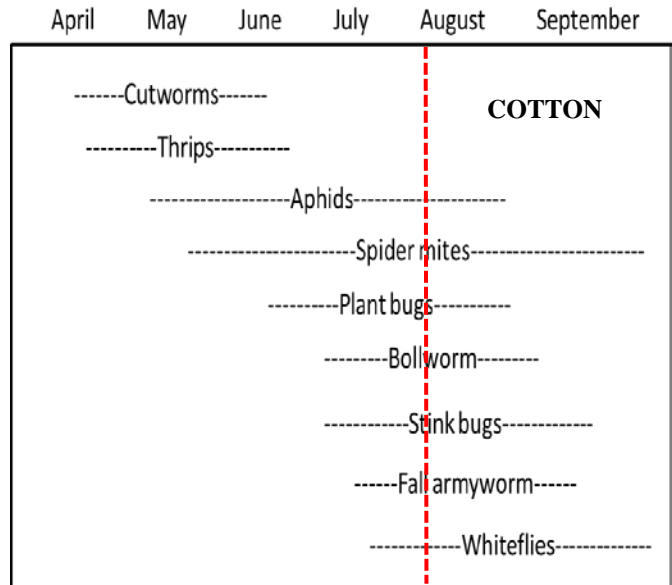


## Cotton Situation

As of 5 August 2018, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 90% of the crop is squaring, compared with 80% the previous week, 92% at this time last year, and 94% for the 5-year average. About 59% of the crop is setting bolls, compared with 45% the previous week, 66% at this time last year, and 69% for the 5-year average. The condition of the crop was described as 23% excellent, 52% good, 23% fair, 2% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

## Cotton Insects

We have 3 more weeks of Stink Bug Month, so what do you think is most important right now? Yep, stink bugs. We should continue to be most concerned about stink bugs right now. Know how to identify the immatures because they look totally different from the adults. Here are some photos (southern green stink bug on left [egg mass, 4<sup>th</sup> instar, 5<sup>th</sup> instar, and adult], green stink bug in middle [immatures], and brown stink bug on right [4<sup>th</sup> instar, 5<sup>th</sup> instar, and adult]):



Use Bidrin or bifenthrin, if you have a high percentage of brown stink bugs, as those chemicals are good on browns. The other pyrethroids work well on the green species, and in some cases work better than bifenthrin on the green species. So, mix it up with the pyrethroids. Don't always use bifenthrin. We can see some residual control of stink bugs with the pyrethroids...often lasting a week or so. Use our dynamic boll-injury threshold that is based on week of bloom. You should know in what week of bloom each field is that you check. Continue to check for bollworm escaping control with the Bt toxins. Pheromone trap data and observations indicate that this last generation (flight) has declined. Our next flight should start soon, so continue checking squares, blooms, and bolls for injury and escapes.

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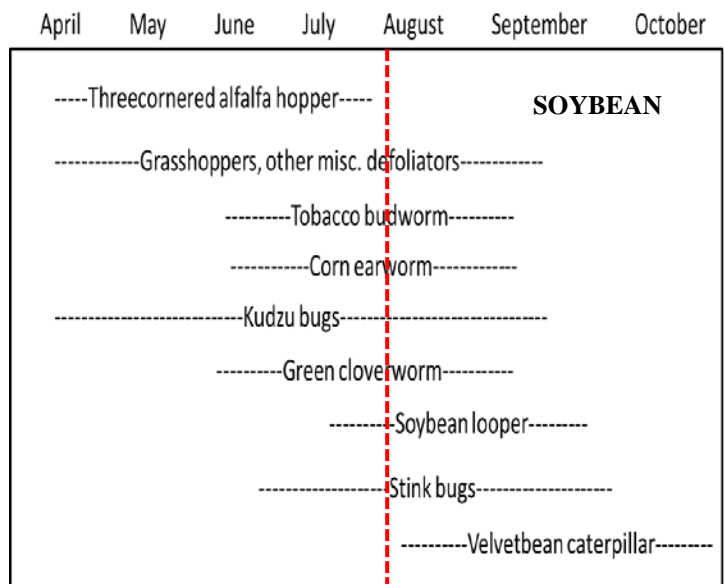


## Soybean Situation

As of 5 August 2018, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 28% of the crop is blooming, compared with 23% the previous week, 67% at this time last year, and 56% for the 5-year average. About 4% of the crop is setting pods, compared with 1% the previous week, 33% at this time last year, and 14% for the 5-year average. The condition of the crop was described as 2% excellent, 73% good, 25% fair, 0% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.


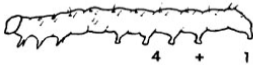


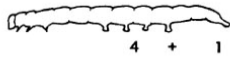








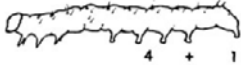
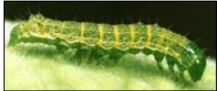
## Soybean Insects

There are many soybean loopers (SBL) this week. There are some green cloverworms (GCW) in the mix, and podworm can also be found in blooming soybeans or those putting on pods. I saw the looper moths out and about last week, and they are here this week as larvae. The issue is likely to be more widespread shortly, so go scout your soybeans. Be able to identify the species, as you need something other than a pyrethroid for SBL. Look through our Pest Management Handbook for options. Small GCW and SBL caterpillars can look very similar until you look closely and count the pairs of abdominal prolegs. Continue to use the guide shown here to hone your skills at identifying moths and larvae for the major species you will see in soybeans. Remember, your choice of insecticide depends on proper identification of species. Use this pictorial key to help with those identifications.



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 (2017) Prepared by Jeremy Greene, Professor of Entomology

### FIELD KEY TO COMMON SOYBEAN CATERpillARS

		<p><b>CORN EARWORM</b>            4 + 1 pair prolegs            Curls up in hand            Black "warts" on body</p>	
		<p><b>VELVETBEAN CATERPILLAR</b>            4 + 1 pair prolegs            Very active when handled</p>	
		<p><b>SOYBEAN LOOPER</b>            2 + 1 pair prolegs            Fatter at tail end            Looping movement</p>	
		<p><b>GREEN CLOVERWORM</b>            3 + 1 pair prolegs            Not fatter at tail end            Looping movement</p>	
		<p><b>TOBACCO BUDWORM</b>            4 + 1 pair prolegs            Curls up in hand            Black "warts" on body</p>	

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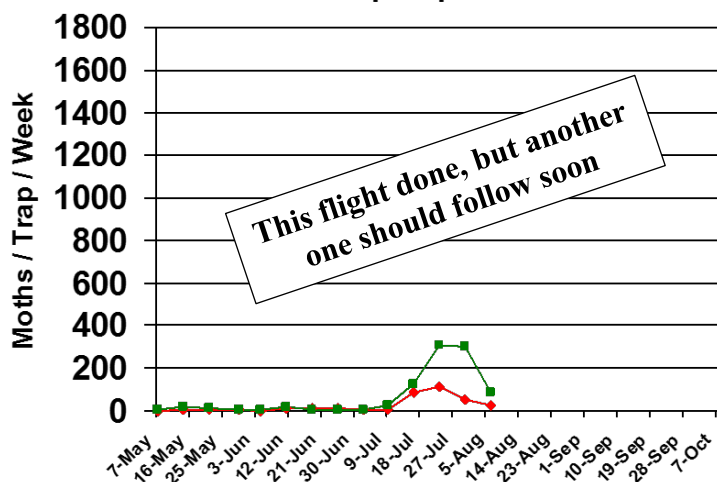
## Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



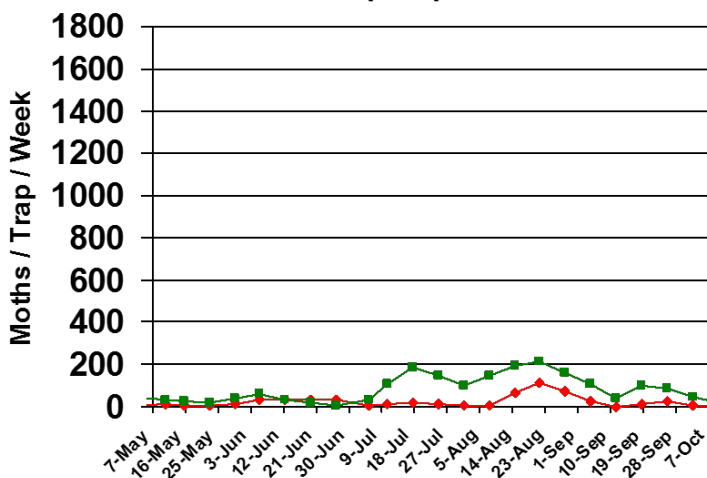
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2017 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I provide these data as a measure of moth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

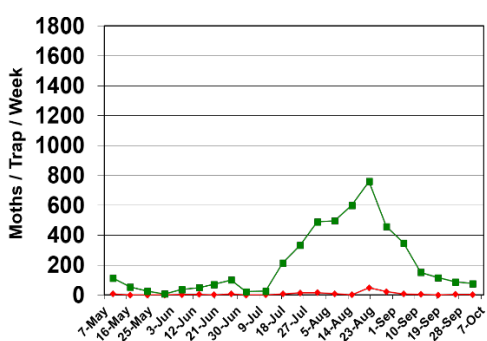


### Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2017

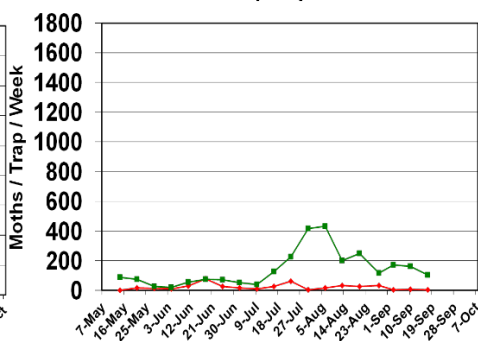


Trap data from 2007-2016 are shown below for reference to other years of trapping data from EREC:

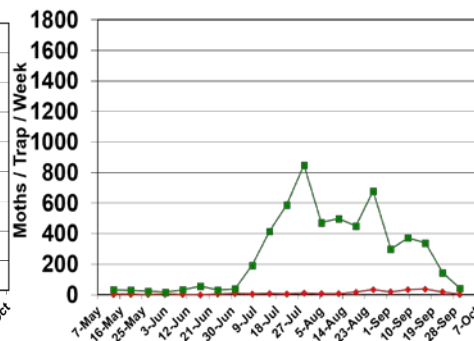
### Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2007



### Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2008



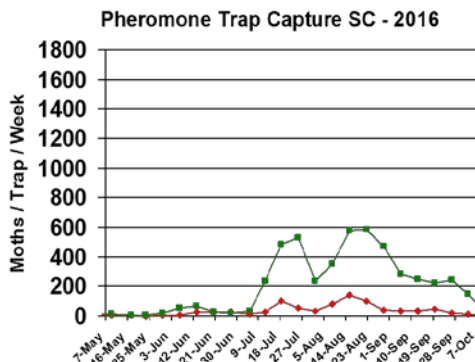
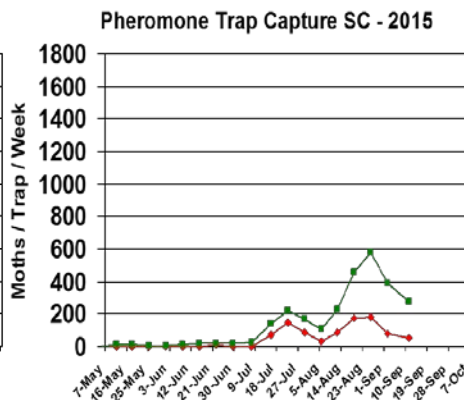
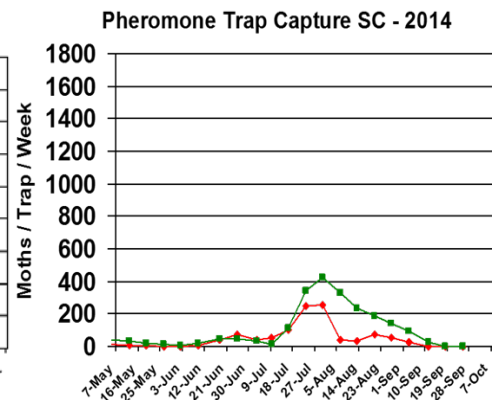
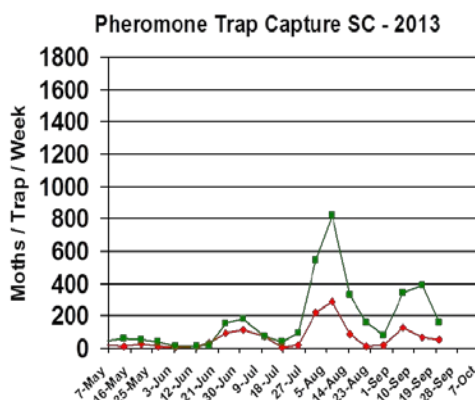
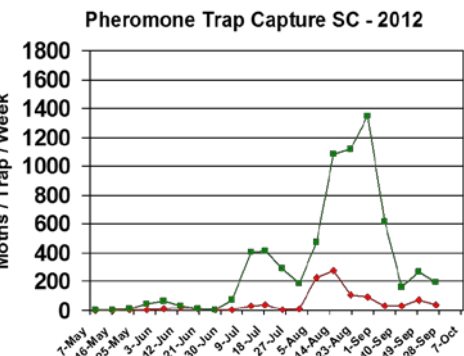
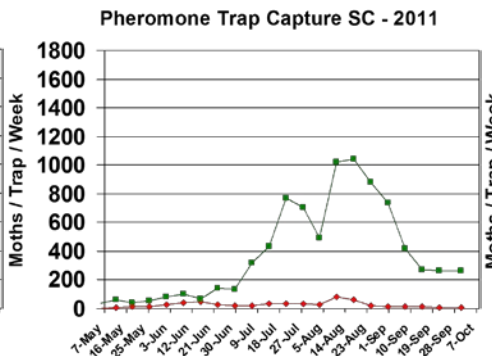
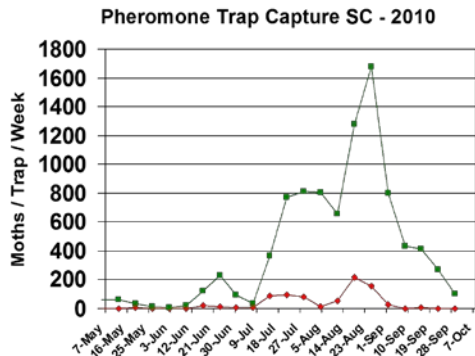
### Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2009



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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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**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



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