



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 13, Issue #17 Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC 24 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 covering Orangeburg County, reported that “in the early planted cotton, I was in this week I did see early set bolls opening up. Soybeans I checked this week had been treated about 10 days ago for worms and at this point were still clean.” **Hannah Mikell**, county agent in Clarendon County, reported that she is “seeing more grasshoppers in soybeans [but] hasn’t reached threshold yet. Some foliage feeding but nothing to warrant a spray.” **David DeWitt**, county agent covering Lee, Sumter, and Kershaw Counties, reported from Lee County that “some scouts / farmers [have indicated] an increase in bollworms in BG2 cotton [and are] considering a worm material spray.” **Charles Davis**, county agent in Calhoun County, reported that some late season stink bug sprays are going out combined with a last shot of growth regulator to keep the cotton in check. A lot of discussions about whether to spray some fields for the mildew or not are being had. Cotton is opening in the sandy spots and potassium deficiency is really obvious now. This crop is about made but I am worried about the late May and early June planted cotton. I am reminded of the Smokey and the Bandit song Eastbound and Down. A long way to go and a short time to get there...”!

Fall Field Day

We will have a Fall Field Day at the Edisto Research and Education Center on 6 September 2018. The field day will include a morning session on peanuts and an afternoon session for cotton, corn, soybeans, and grain sorghum that will cover irrigation and fertility recommendations, nematodes, sensors, robotics, OVTs, insects, and more. The tours and lunch are free. Pesticide and CCA credits will be offered. See the flyer also attached to the email for this newsletter for more details.

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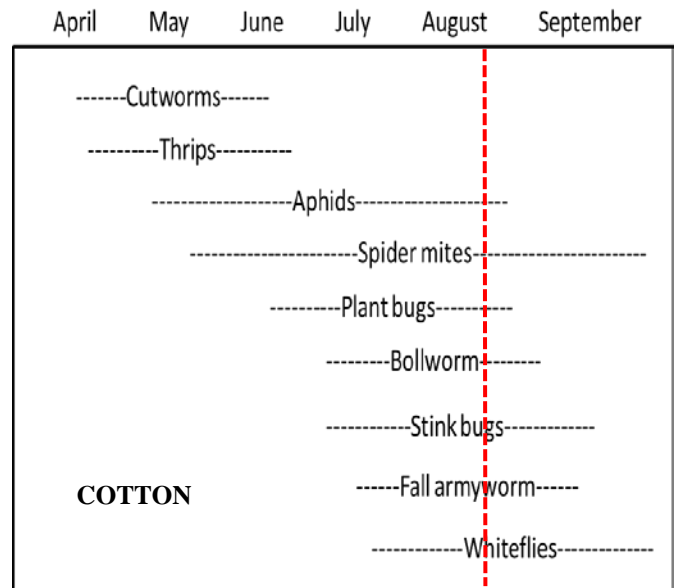


Cotton Situation

As of 19 August 2018, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 80% of the crop is setting bolls, compared with 75% the previous week, 83% at this time last year, and 87% for the 5-year average. About 4% of the crop has bolls opening, compared with 1% the previous week, 8% at this time last year, and 4% for the 5-year average. The condition of the crop was described as 22% excellent, 55% good, 20% fair, 3% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Cotton Insects

We have another week remaining in August – Stink Bug Month – but insects don’t have calendars and stop feeding on cotton in September. Late-planted cotton will be particularly susceptible to stink bugs as earlier planted fields become less attractive, forcing a bottleneck of adult stink bugs into the late cotton or soybeans. The nymphs that are developing in cotton have no choice but to continue feeding, as they cannot fly to another host. So, scout and be able to recognize the immature stages present in the field. We are seeing a lot of hatching eggs right now. I covered termination of insecticide applications for stink bugs last week, so, if you didn’t see that and are interested, please see the newsletter from last week.



Captures of bollworm moths increased this past week, indicating that another generation has started looking for hosts. Those will certainly include late-planted cotton that is still producing copious numbers of flowers and developing fruit. You will want to continue to scout those fields, for sure. I wouldn’t turn many fields loose that didn’t have bolls cracking open on the bottom. We are still finding plenty of bollworm moths and fresh eggs (egg on square bract in center photo on next page) in cotton that was planted during late May. Any cotton planted in June will be attractive to this new generation of moths flying now.

Also, we are seeing more spider mites again (right photo on next page), now that the rains have become less frequent. So, be aware of their presence, and watch them closely for the next week or so.

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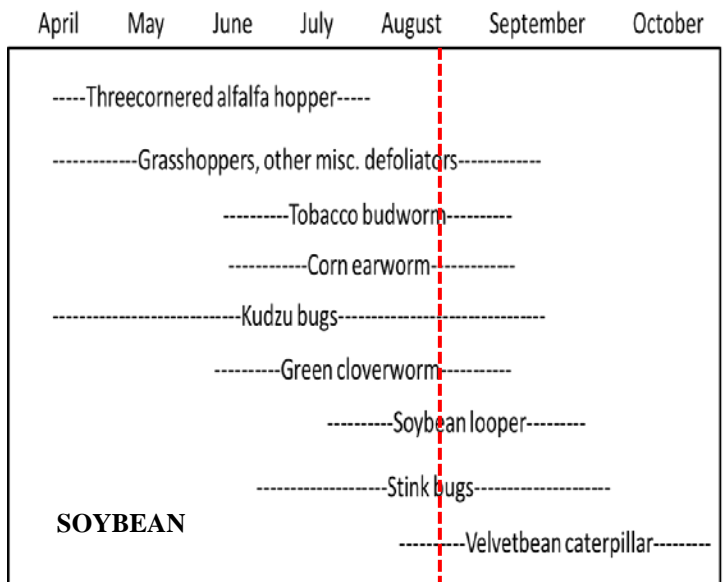


Soybean Situation

As of 19 August 2018, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 75% of the crop is blooming, compared with 58% the previous week, 84% at this time last year, and 81% for the 5-year average. About 39% of the crop is setting pods, compared with 27% the previous week, 41% at this time last year, and 34% for the 5-year average. The condition of the crop was described as 10% excellent, 62% good, 22% fair, 5% poor, and 1% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Soybean Insects

There is even more species diversity and pressure from insects in soybeans this week. For caterpillar species, we have soybean looper, green cloverworm, velvetbean caterpillar, podworm, skippers, and a few armyworms in the mix. Be able to identify the moths and larvae in soybeans, as good control with insecticides depends on accurate identifications. Many moths flying around now in soybeans. Know what they are? Also, this is the time of year when stink bugs start to explode in soybeans. Watch out!



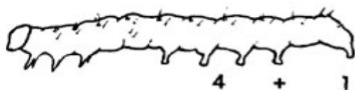
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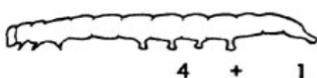
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FIELD KEY TO COMMON SOYBEAN CATERPILLARS



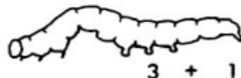
CORN EARWORM
4 + 1 pair prolegs
Curls up in hand
Black "warts" on body



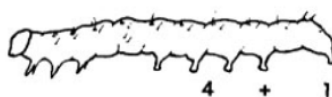
VELVETBEAN CATERPILLAR
4 + 1 pair prolegs
Very active when handled



SOYBEAN LOOPER
2 + 1 pair prolegs
Fatter at tail end
Looping movement



GREEN CLOVERWORM
3 + 1 pair prolegs
Not fatter at tail end
Looping movement



TOBACCO BUDWORM
4 + 1 pair prolegs
Curls up in hand
Black "warts" on body



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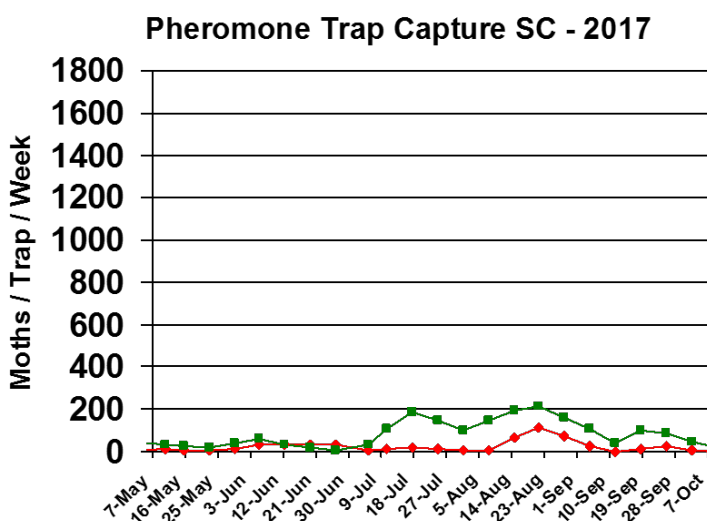
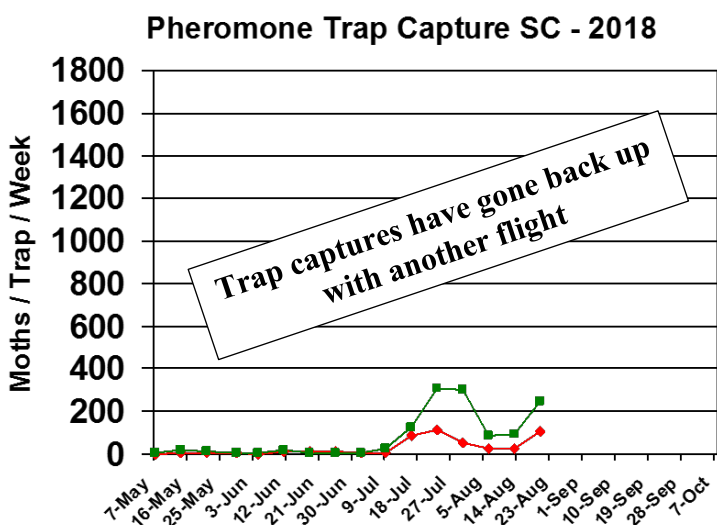
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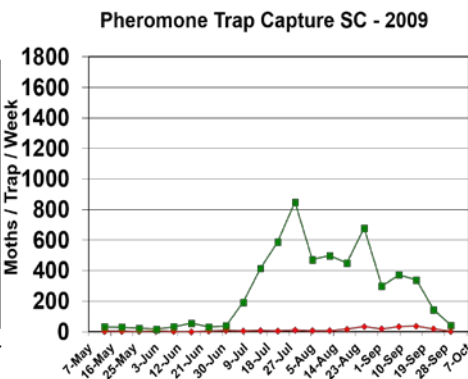
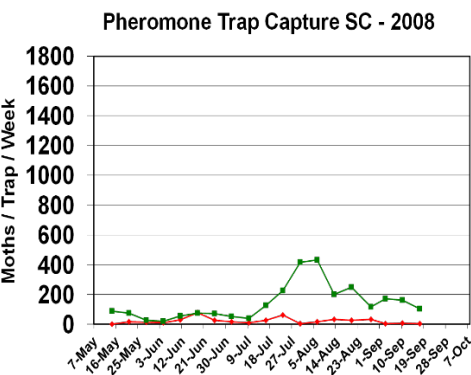
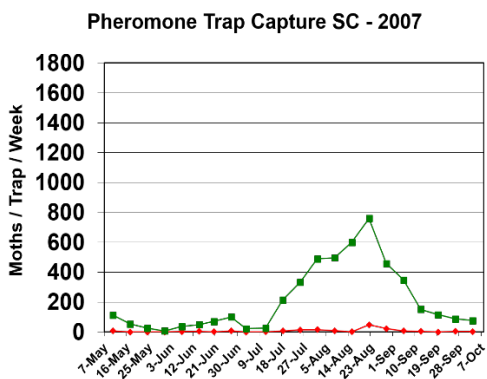
Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



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.



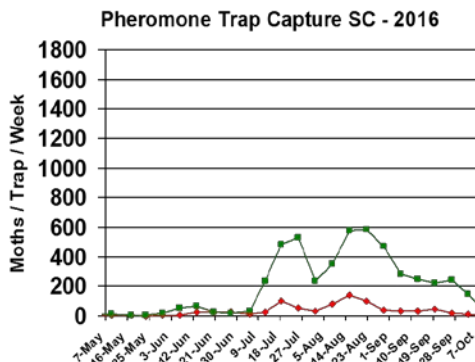
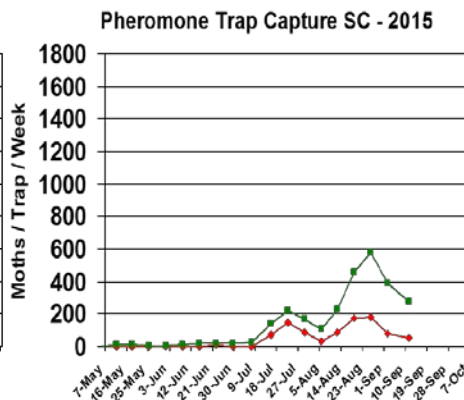
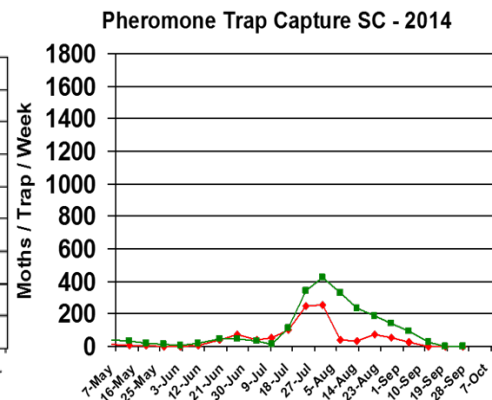
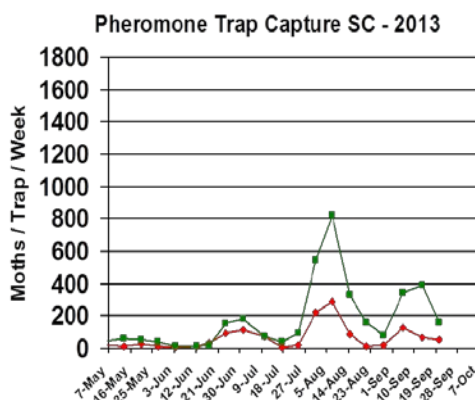
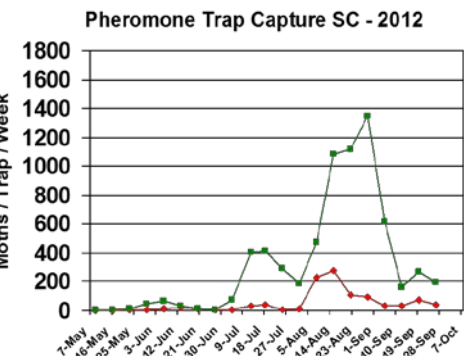
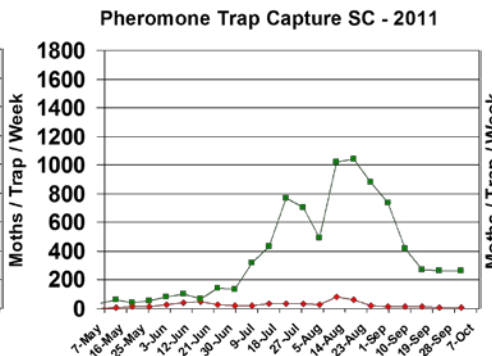
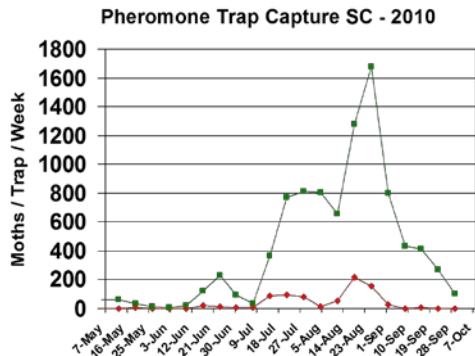
Trap data from 2007-2016 are shown below for reference to other years of trapping data from EREC:



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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



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