



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 13, Issue #18 Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC 31 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

Trish DeHond, county agent covering Chesterfield, Darlington, and Marlboro Counties, reported that she observed silverspotted skippers in soybeans in Darlington County last week. The moth and larva are pictured here. These larvae are defoliating pests that are part of the foliage-feeding complex of caterpillars in soybeans.

Jonathan Croft, county agent in Orangeburg County, reported that he “looked at some soybeans earlier in the week that had a few small worms starting back up in



them...mainly soybean looper. Most



growers I have talked with feel like they are applying their last stink bug sprays in cotton. Cotton is cutting out quickly all across the area. We need a rain bad to help finish off cotton, soybeans, and peanuts.” **Charles Davis**, county agent in Calhoun County, reported that “late cotton continues to get some stink bug and PGR applications. Have seen a couple of fields with higher than normal worm damage. Hot, dry conditions are really telling the tale of poor root systems on dryland cotton. A lot of deficiency symptoms showing up now, mostly related to nematode damage and sandy soils.”

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Fall Field Day

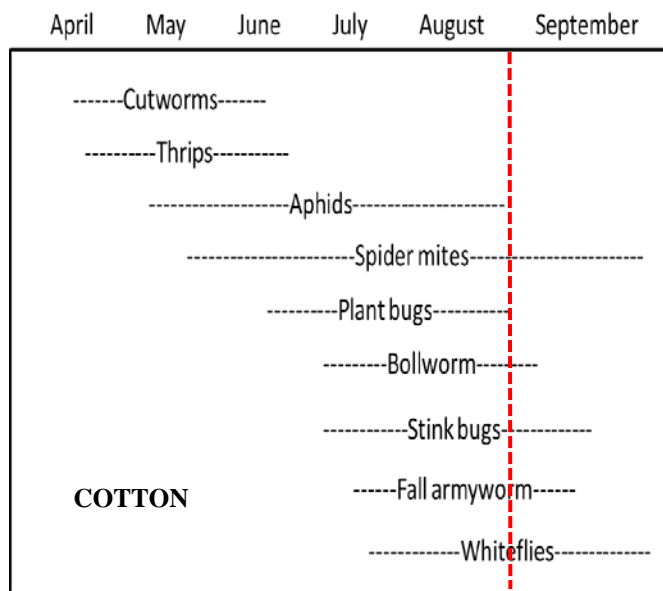
We will have a Fall Field Day at the Edisto Research and Education Center on 6 September 2018 (NEXT THURSDAY). The field day will include a morning session on peanuts and an afternoon session for cotton, corn, soybeans, and grain sorghum that will cover irrigation and fertility recommendations, nematodes, 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.

Cotton Situation

As of 26 August 2018, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 88% of the crop is setting bolls, compared with 80% the previous week, 93% at this time last year, and 92% for the 5-year average. About 7% of the crop has bolls opening, compared with 4% the previous week, 19% at this time last year, and 13% for the 5-year average. The condition of the crop was described as 21% excellent, 62% good, 17% fair, 0% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Cotton Insects

Well, it is the last day of Stink Bug Month, but stink bugs will continue to be an issue in late-planted cotton as insects funnel into our later fields. We are still



seeing egg masses in cotton, so stink bugs are still at it. As I mentioned last week, the nymphs that are hatching will develop in cotton because they 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 a couple of weeks ago, so, if you didn't see that and are interested, please see

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that issue. I saw a good many leaffooted bugs



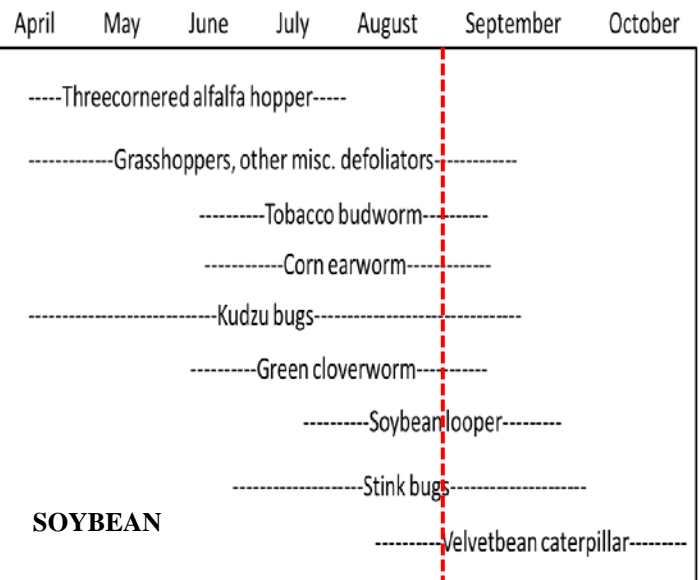
this week also. They should be counted as stink bugs and will be treated for using the boll-injury threshold. Other than stink bugs, bollworm is still easy

to find from this flight. Captures of bollworm moths was about the same this past week as the week before, indicating that this generation has probably peaked and will soon start dwindling in numbers. But, for now, we still have hatching bollworm eggs and pressure in the crop. Here is a boll from 2-gene cotton that was destroyed by bollworm. We are seeing more injury from bollworm these days, as tolerance to Bt proteins builds. Also, we are seeing spider mites build in the crop, as it has gotten dry, but I don't think many fields will need any treatment for spider mites at this point. Just watch them.



Soybean Situation

As of 26 August 2018, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 90% of the crop is blooming, compared with 75% the previous week, 91% at this time last year, and 87% for the 5-year average. About 62% of the crop is setting pods, compared with 39% the previous week, 58% at this time last year, and 48% for the 5-year average. The condition of the crop was described as 6% excellent, 80% good, 14% fair, 0% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.



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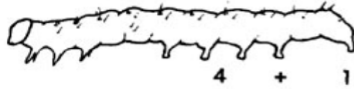
Soybean Insects

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 in soybeans. Know what they are? Also, this is the time of year when stink bugs start to explode in soybeans. Watch out!

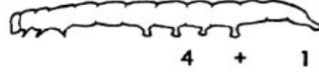
CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

(2017) Prepared by Jeremy Greene, Professor of Entomology

FIELD KEY TO COMMON SOYBEAN CATERpillARS



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



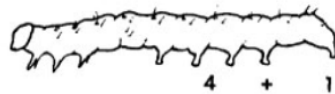
VELVETBEAN CATERPILLAR
4 + 1 pair prolegs
Very active when handled



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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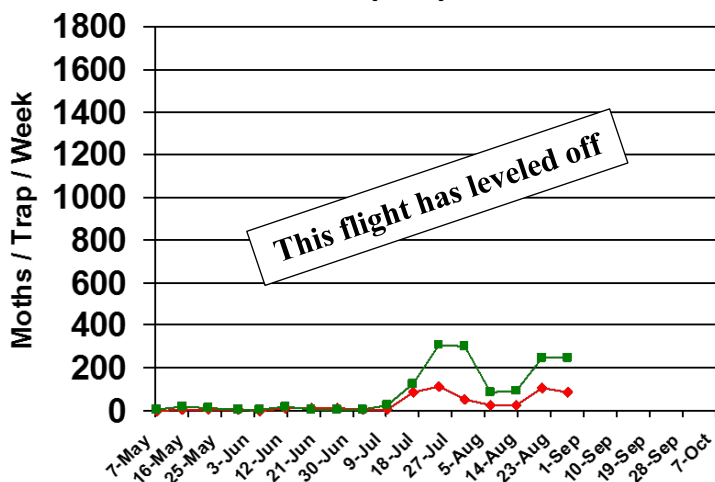
Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



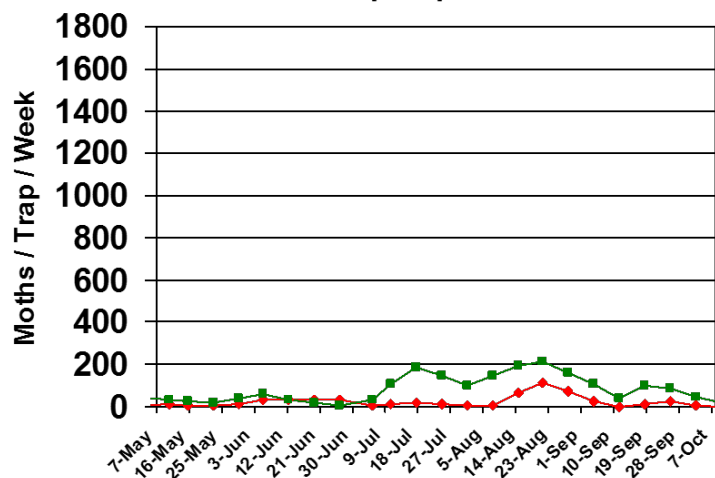
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2017 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I provide these data as a measure of moth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

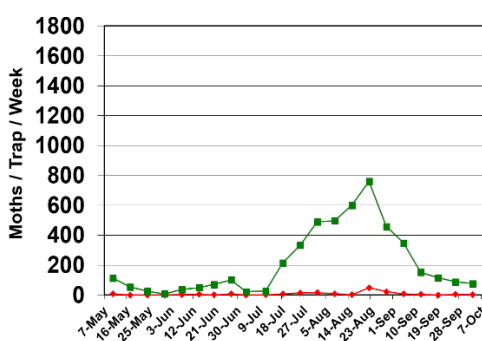


Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2017

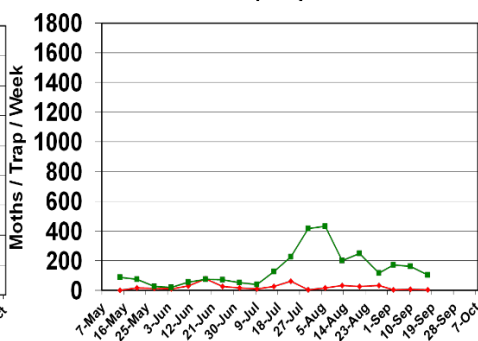


Trap data from 2007-2016 are shown below for reference to other years of trapping data from EREC:

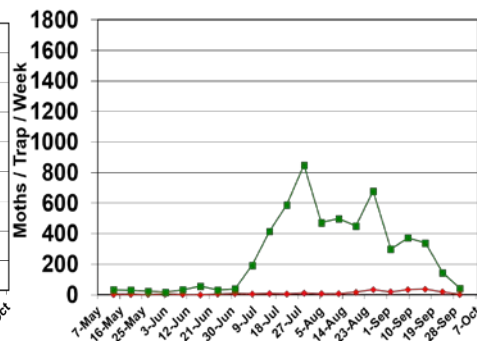
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2007



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2008



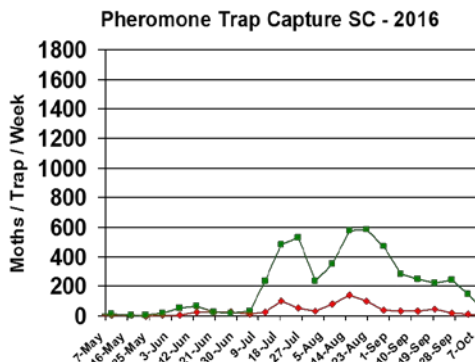
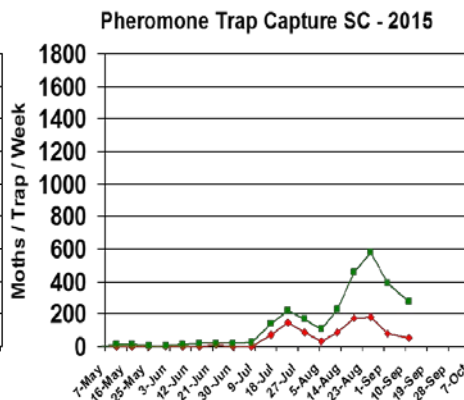
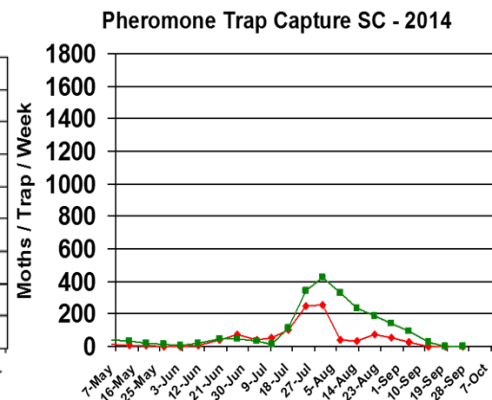
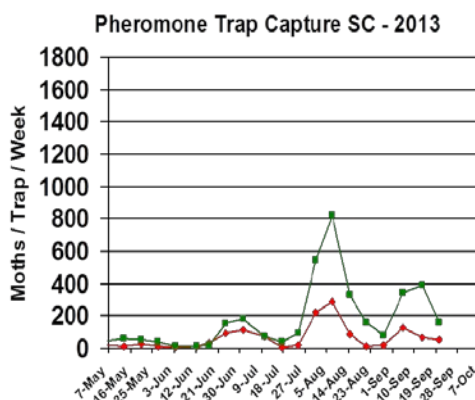
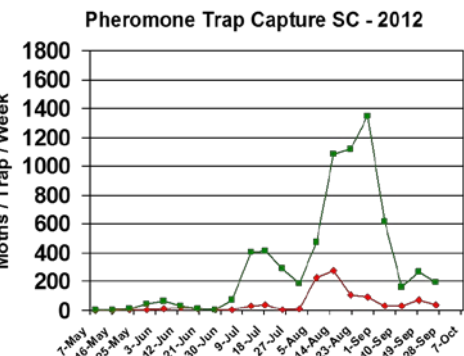
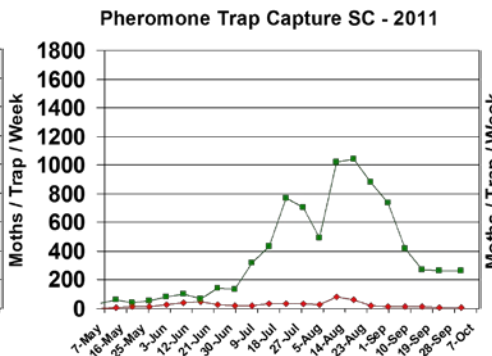
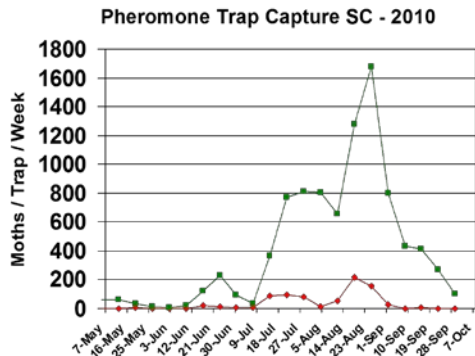
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2009



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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



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