



## *Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter*

Volume 13, Issue #9

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

29 June 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**

**Chris Talley**, county agent covering many of the Upstate counties (Anderson, Abbeville, Cherokee, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens, and Spartanburg), reported that he is already noticing some injury from what seems to be threecornered alfalfa hopper (TCAH). Here is the photographic evidence of feeding injury, where girdling has weakened the main stem and caused the plants to break at that point. Stand loss and yield loss results, if too many skips occur due to injury from TCAH.



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## Scouting Workshops

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](mailto:croft@clemsun.edu)] or Charles Davis [[cdvs@clemsun.edu](mailto: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](mailto:hmikell@clemsun.edu)] or 803-435-8429] or Jacob Stokes [[stokes3@clemsun.edu](mailto: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](mailto:green4@clemsun.edu)], Mary Katherine Bamberg [[mbamber@clemsun.edu](mailto:mbamber@clemsun.edu)], Joe Varn [[jvarn@clemsun.edu](mailto:jvarn@clemsun.edu)], or Marion Barnes [[jbrns@clemsun.edu](mailto:jbrns@clemsun.edu)]).

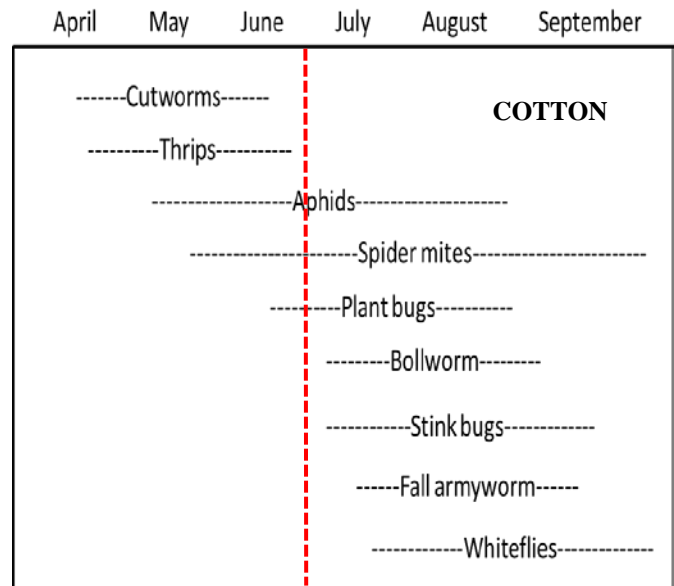
The trainings will be free to attend, start in the morning, and end with lunch. Stay tuned for more information. Detailed information will be sent out as each training date approaches.

## Cotton Situation

As of 24 June 2018, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 23% of the crop is squaring, compared with 19% the previous week, 31% at this time last year, and 24% for the 5-year average. About 0% of the crop is setting bolls, compared with 0% the previous week, 1% at this time last year, and 1% for the 5-year average. The condition of the crop was described as 10% excellent, 68% good, 22% fair, 0% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

## Cotton Insects

We continue to be in the window where we need to focus on scouting for aphids, spider mites, and plant bugs. I noticed several items regarding these arthropods this past week. Aphids are still spotty but becoming more numerous. If you run into ants numerous on the foliage, you have very likely just found aphids also. Just like the recommendation last week, treat only when high numbers of aphids are severely infesting plants, populations are building, and the margins of terminal leaves are drooping. Aphids will cause more damage when plants are suffering from lack of moisture, and there are few signs of natural control agents. I have not heard of any complaints about spider mites yet. Spider mites usually appear initially in border rows of a field or sometimes in isolated spots within a field. When mites first appear, treating border rows or spot treating may prevent outbreaks. Thresholds are not well-defined for spider mites, so we have to keep checking for mites and eggs under leaves (get a hand lens), looking for stippling on the tops of leaves, and just



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generally scouting for spider mites, deciding to treat only when it is clearly necessary. Remember, a hard rain usually provides good “control” of spider mites, so plan spraying around rain events to potentially save money on sprays. I have reported repeatedly that plant bugs rarely cause economic problems in South Carolina; however, we did find tarnished plant bug (TPB) at threshold (8 per 100 sweeps) yesterday in some 12-node squaring cotton I have in a plant bug trial at Edisto REC. Square retention is still at about 90% in that test field, so we don’t have a problem yet, but I will be treating the threshold treatment on Monday and will continue to report what we see developing with TPB. Check for TPB in cotton. If you missed the last couple of newsletters, check those out for more information on and photos of aphids, spider mites, and plant bugs.

Also, stink bugs are still numerous in corn, and I even saw one brown stink bug in squaring (12-node) cotton yesterday. Also, corn is not as infested with corn earworm as it could be, but there are still plenty of caterpillars either pupating or getting ready to pupate, turn into moths, emerge, and look for another host, such as cotton, so get ready for bollworm as cotton starts to bloom. Pictured here – a brown stink bug in cotton, aphids on cotton,



a large corn earworm on corn ear, and a yellow-striped armyworm found on 12-node cotton this week. Get out and scout your cotton now. Don’t wait for blooms to appear! Go look for aphids, spider mites, and plant bugs. Check square retention.



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## Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm

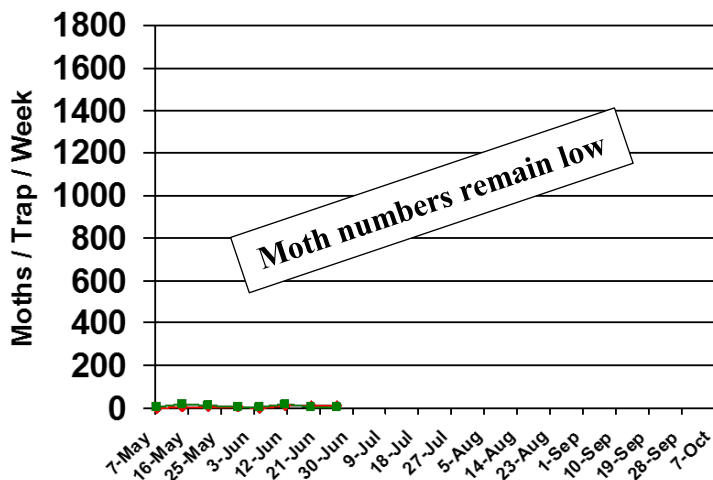


Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2017 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I provide these

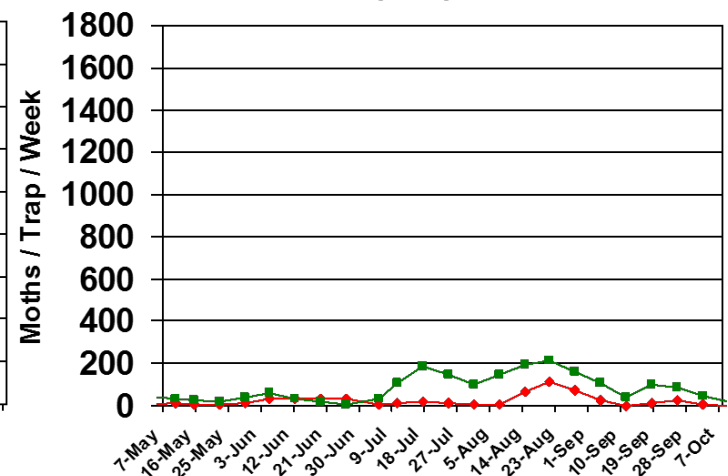
data as a measure of moth presence and activity in our local area near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



### Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2018

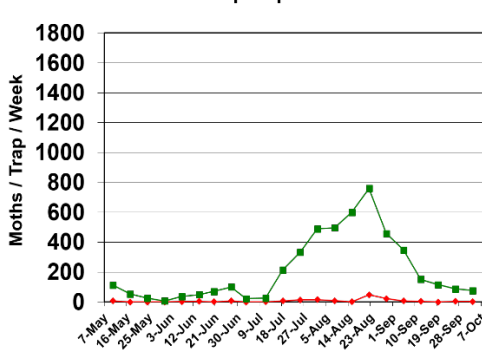


### Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2017

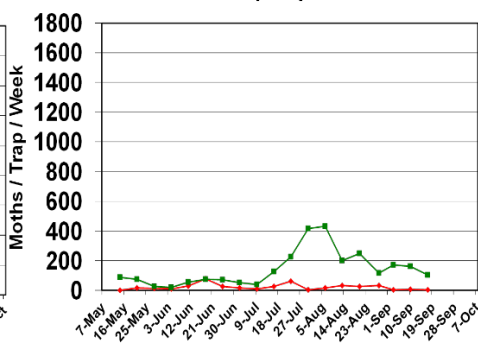


Trap data from 2007-2016 are shown below for reference to other years of trapping data from EREC:

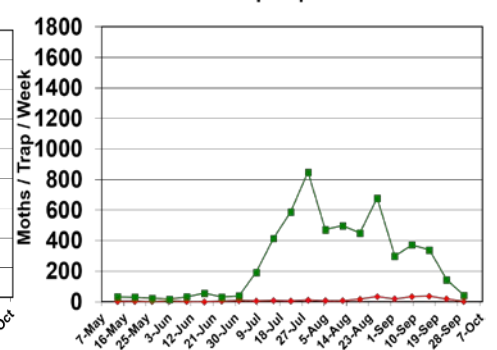
### Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2007



### Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2008



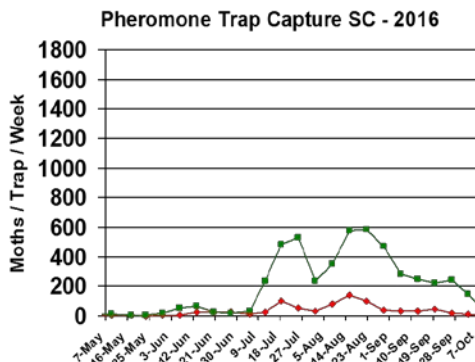
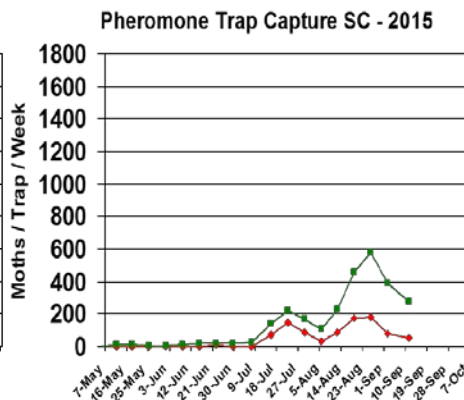
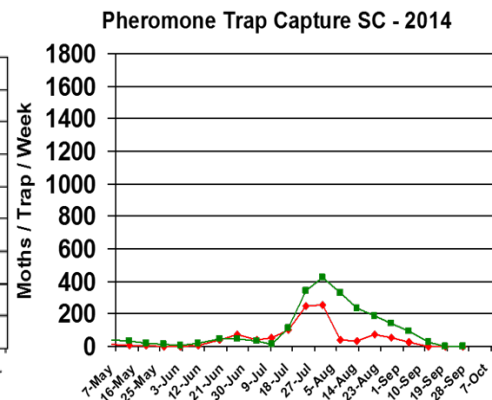
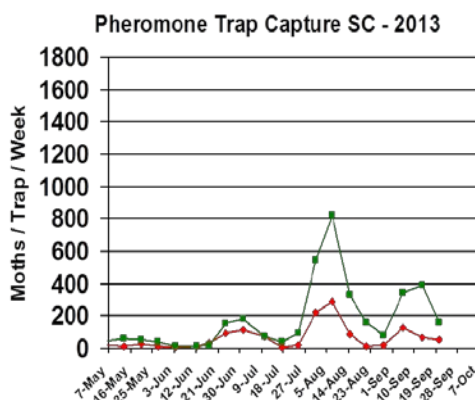
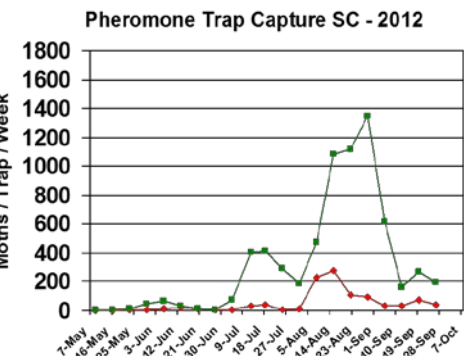
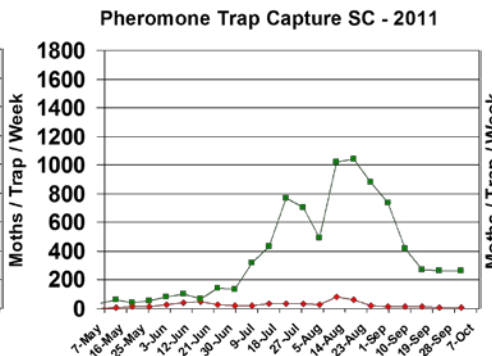
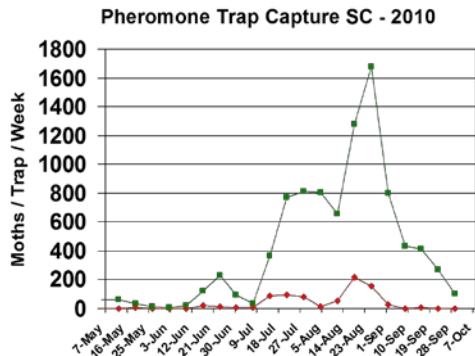
### Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2009



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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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### **Free Mobile Apps: “Calibrate My Sprayer” and “Mix My Sprayer”**



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:  
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