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 the 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 he has “seen some isolated incidences of heavy thrips damage, but, overall, the crop looks pretty good. I still see a lot of thrips on volunteer peanuts but don’t see many on the cotton. Looks like our insecticide treatments are doing their job so far. Picking up a lot of grasshoppers. Haven’t seen much damage yet but it will be coming soon when the volunteer peanuts are gone.” Jonathan Croft, county agent covering Orangeburg County, reported that he “talked to several growers this week in Orangeburg and surrounding counties that are treating for thrips in cotton.”

Cotton Situation
As of 20 May 2019, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 65% of the crop has been planted, compared with 39% the previous week, 45% at this time last year, and 60% for the 5-year average. The condition of the crop has yet to be described by the office (----% excellent, ----% good, ----% fair, ----% poor, and ----% very poor), but it will be soon. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Cotton Insects
Thrips, grasshoppers, and cutworms are the main concerns for seedling cotton now, but we have already
had reports of burrower bugs and a few other oddball species on young cotton. Keep a watchful eye out for establishing stands and potential problems with insects. Again, pay attention to early infestations of aphids this season, as we will be monitoring for Blue disease transmitted by cotton aphid. We will cover that more in the coming weeks, but do not be too alarmed. We just want to keep an eye on aphids this year and look for incidence of the virus. I want to put out some efficacy trials, so if you develop a population in your area, let me know. I might come put out an insecticide test for cotton aphid in your field! For now, let’s get through the “thrips season” in cotton. Our recommendations for addressing thrips in cotton are in the 2019 Pest Management Handbook and copied below:

**Thrips** feed on leaves and terminals of seedling plants, thereby stunting growth and delaying maturity. Damaged leaves appear crinkled on top, and lower surfaces will often have a silvery sheen. Leaf margins become cupped and terminal buds may be destroyed. Tobacco thrips, *Frankliniella fusca*, is the main species encountered in cotton in South Carolina, but there are several other species that regularly show up in our samples from seedling cotton.

### THRIPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product (at planting)</th>
<th>Product/acre</th>
<th>Lb ai/acre</th>
<th>Acre/gal</th>
<th>REI</th>
<th>PHI</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| aldicarb *(R)*  
AgLogic 15 G or GG | 3.5-5.0 lb | 0.525-0.75 | - | 48 hr | 90 d | In-furrow granular |
| thiamethoxam  
Cruiser, Avicta Duo, or  
Acceleron (check coding) | - | - | - | 12 hr | - | Seed treatment |
| imidacloprid  
Gaucho 600, Aeris, TRiO,  
Acceleron (check coding) | - | - | - | 12 hr | - | Seed treatment |
| acephate  
Orthene/Acephate 97  
Orthene/Acephate 90 | 16.0 oz  
17.2 oz | 0.97 | - | 24 hr | 21 d | In-furrow spray |
| phorate *(R)*  
Thimet 20 G | 5.0 lb | 1.0 | - | 48 hr | 60 d | In-furrow granular |
| imidacloprid  
Courage 4 F  
Courage 2 F  
Admire Pro 4.6  
Velum Total 3.67 | 10.55 oz  
21.1 oz  
9.2 oz  
14-18 oz | 0.33  
12.1  
6.0  
0.24-0.305 | 12 hr | 14 d | In-furrow spray; ST + IFS not to exceed 0.5 lb/acre total |

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**Soybean Insects**
The only issues I have seen yet in soybeans are with deer injury. I have some soybeans that were planted in mid-April that the population of deer here found, but I put a shot of Hinder (Ag soap) on it, and that seemed to reduce the damage. Insects have not been an issue yet. Grasshoppers, kudzu bugs, and the threecornered alfalfa hopper are insects to watch out for right now. Pictures of those were in the last newsletter. It is never too early to start talking about identifying caterpillars and moths. Start familiarizing yourself with these major species.

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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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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 2018 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 - 2019

Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2018

Trap data from 2007-2017 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 – 2019**

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2019 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at:

[https://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/pest%20management%20handbook.html](https://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/pest%20management%20handbook.html)
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: https://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/cotton1/newsletters.html

Sincerely,

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

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