



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 18, Issue #4 Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

26 May 2023

Pest Patrol Alerts

Some of the information contained herein each issue is available via text alerts that direct users to online recordings. I will update the short message often 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. Alternatively, you can sign up online at <https://www.syngenta-us.com/pest-patrol/south-carolina>

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](https://twitter.com/BugDocIsIn) on Twitter.



News from Around the State

Jonathan Croft, county agent in Orangeburg County, reported seeing “...increasing numbers of thrips this week, especially in fields with volunteer peanuts. Cotton seedlings still look good in these fields and have minimal leaf damage.” Jonathan also took some photos of our yearly “friend,” the white-margined burrower bug, *Sehirus cinctus* (Hemiptera: Cydnidae). He said they were in a cotton field but not on the cotton...they were concentrated down in the peanut volunteers and debris. If you remember from years past, this insect can be quite numerous in seedling cotton, and we have observed many at alarming numbers on small plants. However, they do not cause enough injury to justify spraying them, and, often, the at-plant insecticide will kill them, if they feed on seedlings enough to pick up a fatal dose. Jonathan said “they were trying to move back under cover, and it was hard to get a good photo.” His photos are not too bad. They show the red color that nymphs have (left below), and you can see the white line around the margins of the adults (right below). I will put a few more-focused photos in the section on cotton insects.





Insect Scouting Workshops for 2023

This year, we will again offer at least several insect scouting workshops for cotton and soybeans in various locations across the state. We will have a morning program in the field scouting for and talking about important insects in the two crops. We will end the workshop with lunch. We have the following dates and tentative locations planned or in mind:

- Calhoun or Orangeburg County area – 20 July (location to be announced later)
- Barnwell County area – date TBD (location likely at the Edisto REC near Blackville)
- Pee Dee Region of the state – date TBD (location to be announce later)

Cotton Situation

As of 21 May 2023, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 53% of the crop has been planted, compared with 25% the previous week, 63% at this time last year, and 61% for the 5-year average. The conditions of the crop were not yet reported (-% excellent, -% good, -% fair, -% poor, and -% very poor). These are reported statewide averages.

Cotton Insects

White-margined burrower bug – This species, *Sehirus cinctus*, can be numerous this time of year and look like it might be important. You can find them on cotton, soybeans, peanuts, and other crops. However, despite the large numbers of white-margined burrower bugs you might see, they rarely cause enough damage to be economically important. So, largely ignore them – don't spend money on insecticides to control them. Here are some good photos of adults and immatures.



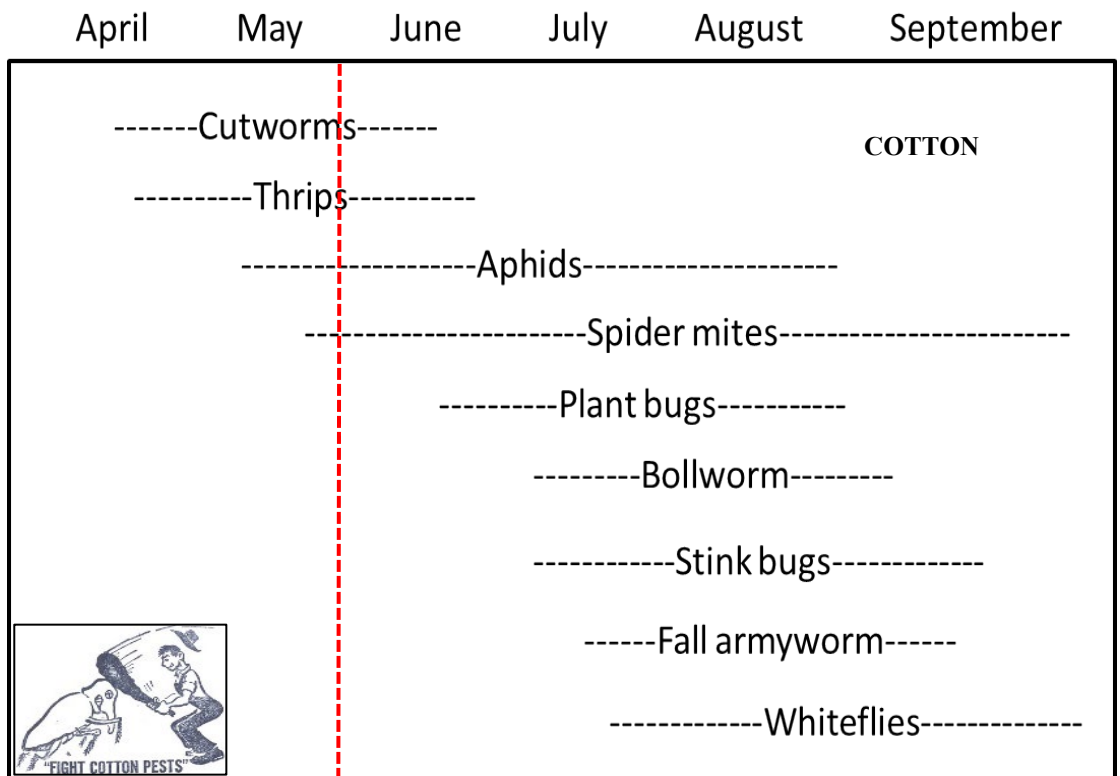


Thrips – We will cover thrips for another week or so, before moving on to plant bugs and other insect issues that arise this time of the season. The photos below are from a trial my technician and I planted during late April to evaluate at-plant insecticide options for thrips. The first photo is of a 4-leaf plant from



a good treatment in the trial – probably ThryvOn or AgLogic (I didn't have my plot plan with me this morning when I took these photos and didn't make any notes).

The other photo is of a 4-leaf plant in the same trial one row over that didn't get an insecticide at planting. These photos show that plants with a good insecticide option fair much better than those without an insecticide, even under moderate pressure from thrips. The untreated plant will likely survive, but there will certainly be a delay in maturity and probably a yield loss also.





Soybean Situation

As of 21 May 2023, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 33% of the crop has been planted, compared with 20% the previous week, 38% at this time last year, and 34% for the 5-year average. About 9% of the crop has emerged, compared with 2% the previous week, 10% at this time last year, and 18% for the 5-year average. The conditions of the crop were not yet reported (-% excellent, -% good, -% fair, -% poor, and -% very poor). These are reported statewide averages.

Soybean Insects

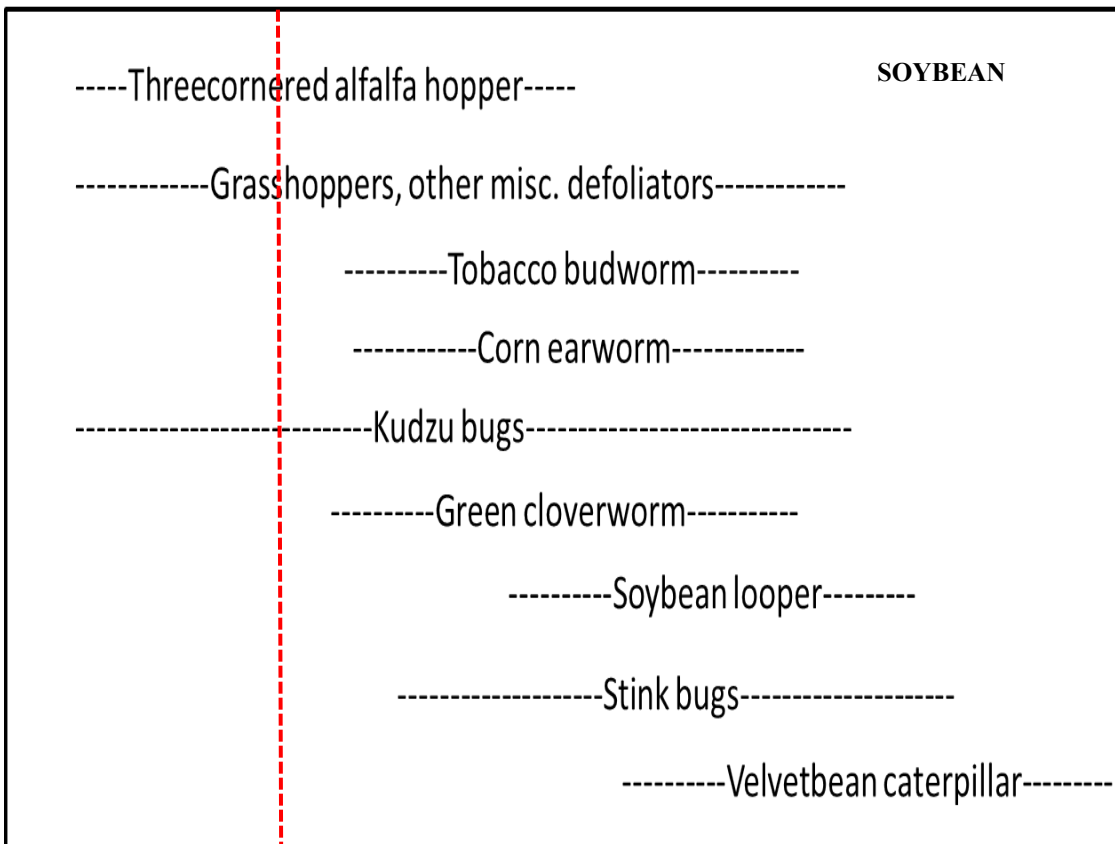
We are still early for widespread problems with insects in soybeans, but we can see issues in early soybeans similar to those in cotton. The white-margined burrower bug can also infest young soybean plants and look like a problem. The solo adult below is an early sign of burrower bug, and the infestation of immature burrower bugs



looks more ominous, but they rarely cause economic problems. If populations are extremely dense, and other factors (e.g. dry, hot weather) are stressing young plants, white-margined burrower bug is easily controlled with insecticide. If plants are not showing stress, don't worry about this species. Save your insecticide budget for the insects that can cause serious losses later in the season, such as stink bugs, podworm, and the defoliating caterpillars (e.g. soybean looper, VBC, etc.).



April May June July August September October



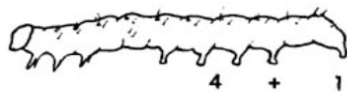


As moth activity increases, deposited eggs will yield caterpillar pests on soybeans. It is good skill to be able to identify adult moths flying around in fields. Use this chart to study moth and caterpillar identification.

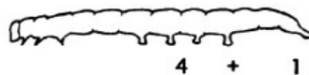
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(2017) Prepared by Jeremy Greene, Professor of Entomology

FIELD KEY TO COMMON SOYBEAN CATERpillARS



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



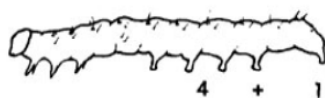
VELVETBEAN CATERPILLAR
4 + 1 pair prolegs
Very active when handled



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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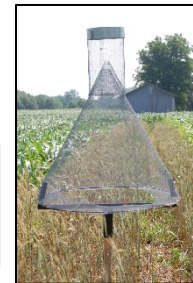


Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm

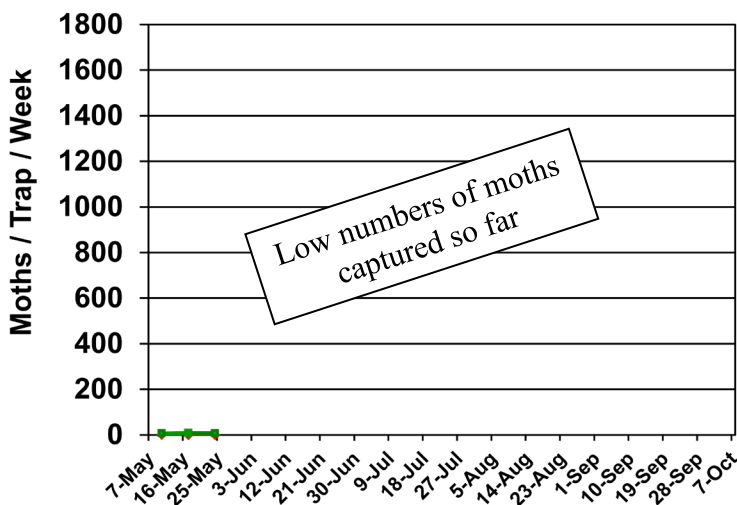


Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2007-2022 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I provide these

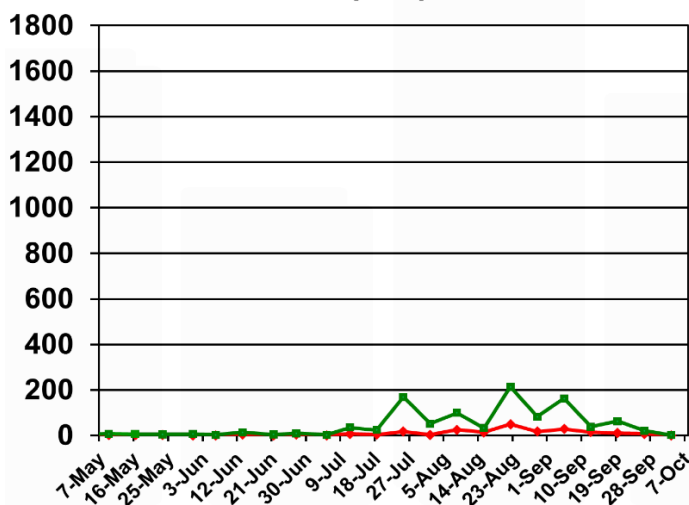
data as a measure of moth presence and activity in our local area near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state but are useful for general trends.



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2023

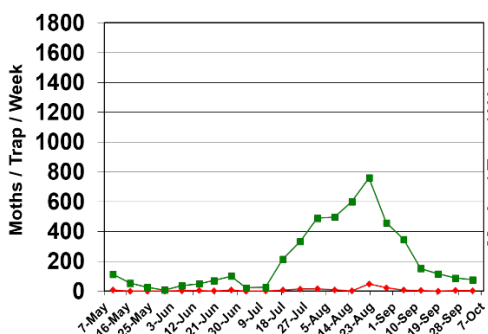


Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2022

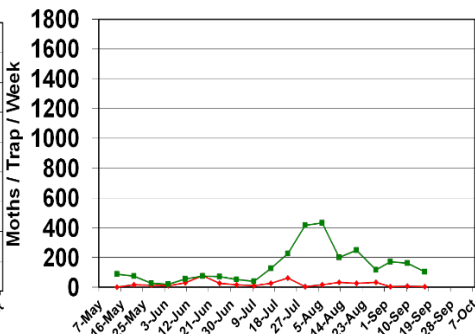


Trap data from 2007-2021 are shown below for reference to other years of trapping data from EREC:

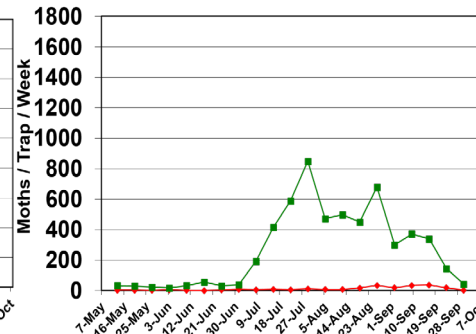
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2007



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2008



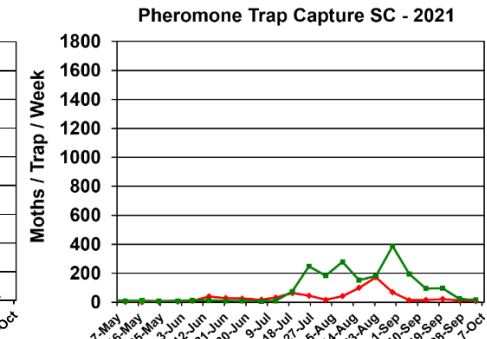
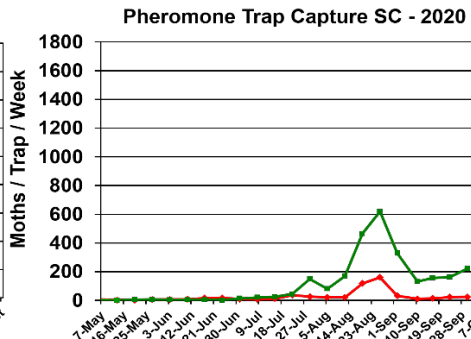
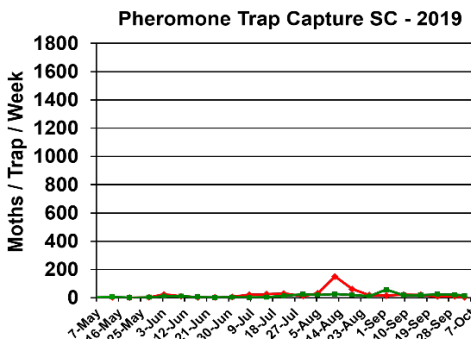
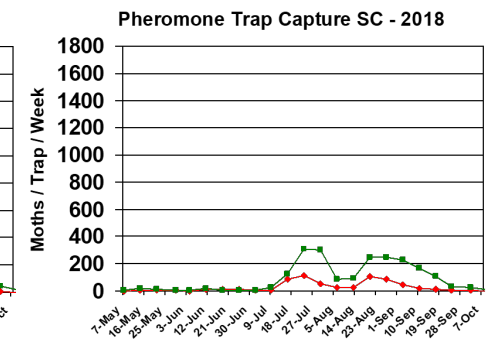
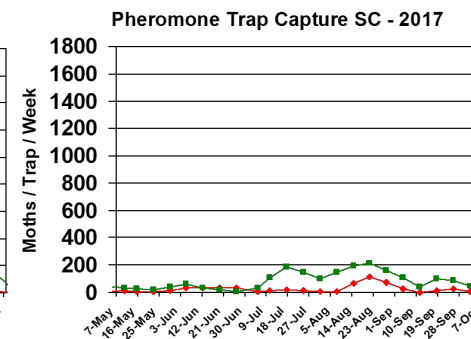
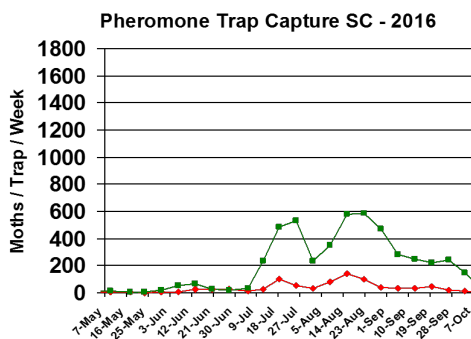
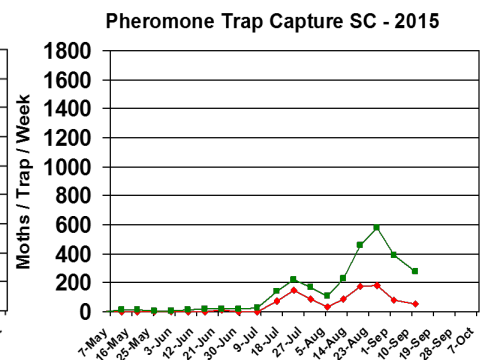
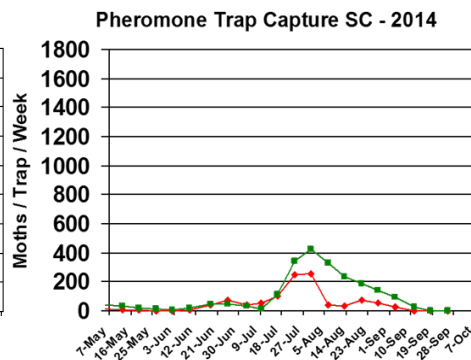
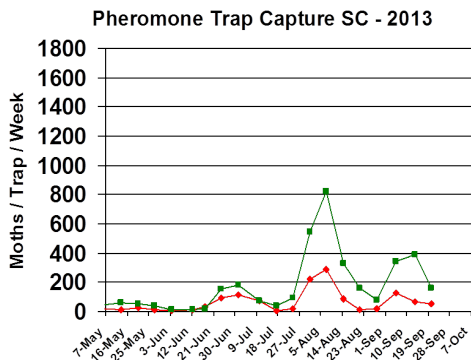
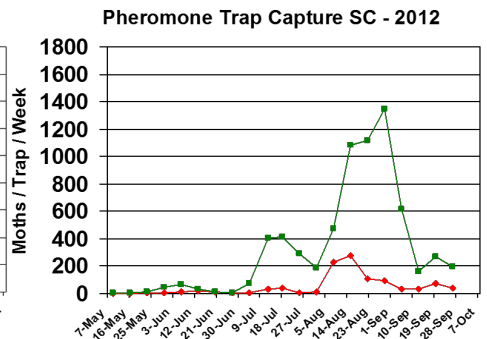
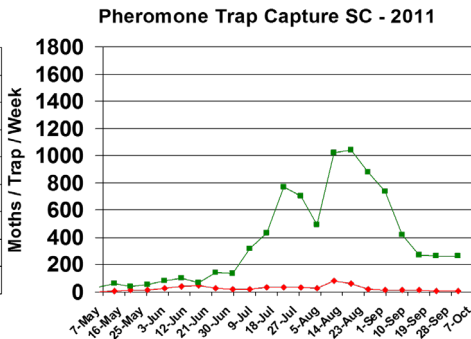
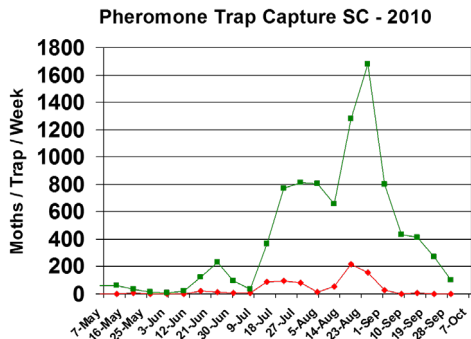
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2009





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Pest Management Handbook – 2023

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2023 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at:

<https://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/files/pest-management-handbook-clemson-extension.pdf>

South Carolina Crops Blog

The SC Crops Blog contains content about production of major row crops at the following link, if you want more information: <https://blogs.clemson.edu/sccrops/>

Archived issues of the Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter can be viewed at a convenient link on the SCCrops page. Contact **Dr. Michael Plumblee**, if you have any questions about the blog.

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):

<https://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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<http://www.clemson.edu>