



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue #8

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

2 July 2009

Pest Patrol Hotline

A summary of current problems with insects is available this season via a toll-free hotline. Simply call the free number **(877) 285-8525** and select the messages you would like to hear. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

Cotton Situation

As of 28 June 2009, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 30% squaring, ahead of where we were last year at 24% but behind the 5-yr average of 38%. Conditions were described as 2% excellent, 55% good, 40% fair, and 3% poor for the crop. Overall, conditions are getting very DRY! These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Soybean Situation

As of 28 June 2009, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 96% of the crop being planted. About 83% of soybeans have emerged, slightly ahead of where the crop was this time last year at 80% and a little behind the 5-yr average emergence of 85%. Conditions were described as 1% excellent, 73% good, 24% fair, and 2% poor. Overall, conditions are getting very DRY! These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

News from Above the Lakes

No news to report this week. Please email or call me with your observations and comments by Wednesday!

News from Below the Lakes

Jonathan Croft, county agent in Dorchester County, reported that “things are pretty quiet down my way in terms of insects in cotton or soybeans. I did come across some aphids in one field of cotton yesterday. Numbers were minimal at this time.”

Should I Spray for Aphids in Cotton?

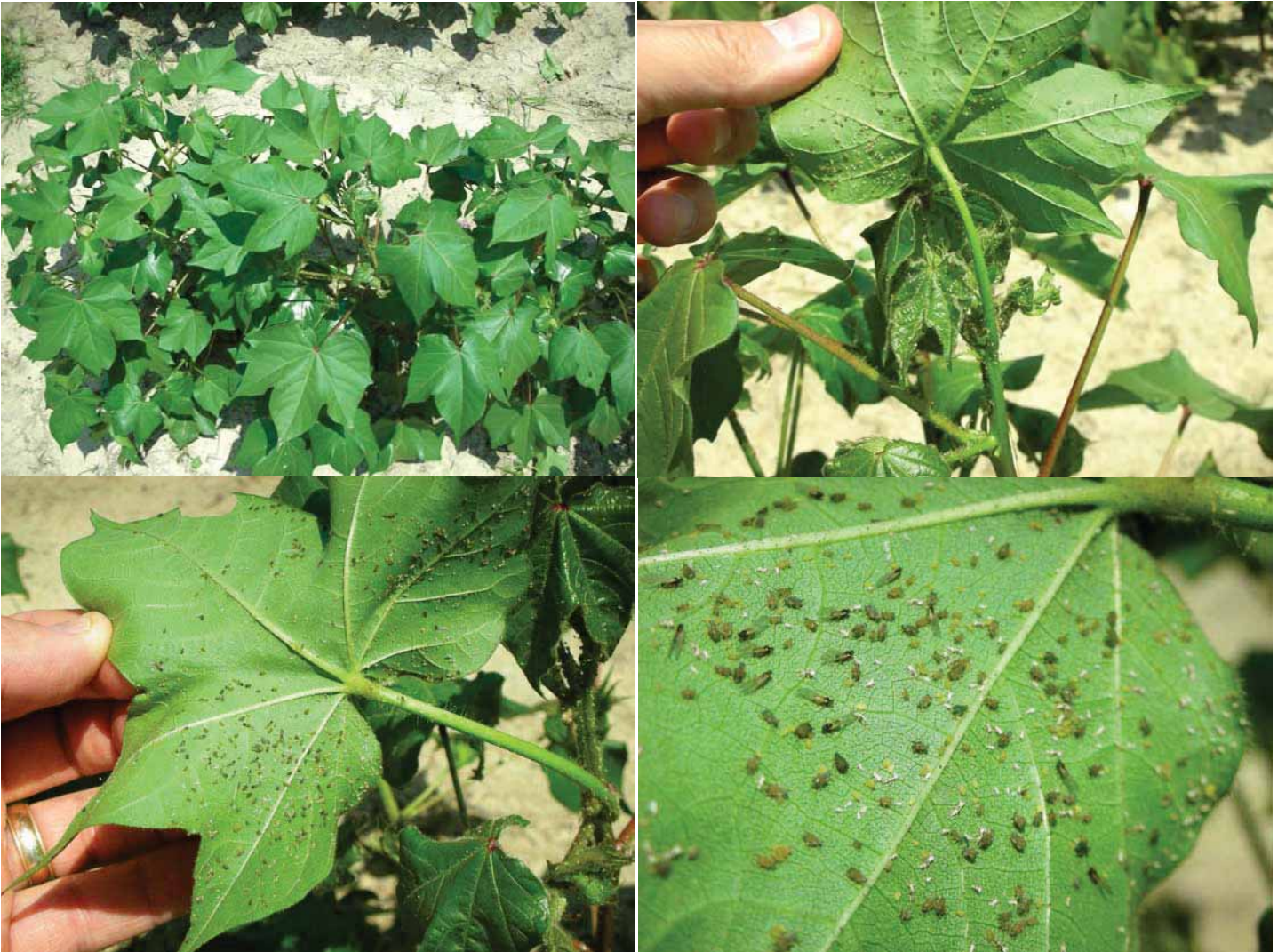
I am seeing many spots in cotton that look like the pictures below. Aphids cover the upper portion of the plants. Honeydew is shining in the sun, and leaves are drooping due to loss of turgor pressure from the feeding injury. They seem to be spreading to other plants nearby – will they cover the entire field soon? Should we be concerned? My opinion about aphids has not changed – they must be “pretty bad” to justify an insecticide application. I have seen many data that support not spraying for aphids – you must be able to get your money back, right? Do not forget that we get help from Mother Nature with aphids. A naturally occurring fungus,

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Neozygites fresenii, does a good job in decimating populations of aphids. Epizootics with this fungus do not occur until populations get high, so be patient. Once aphids become infected, their populations “crash” quickly, usually within 7-10 days.



Pictures of aphids in cotton.

Stink Bugs in Early Soybeans

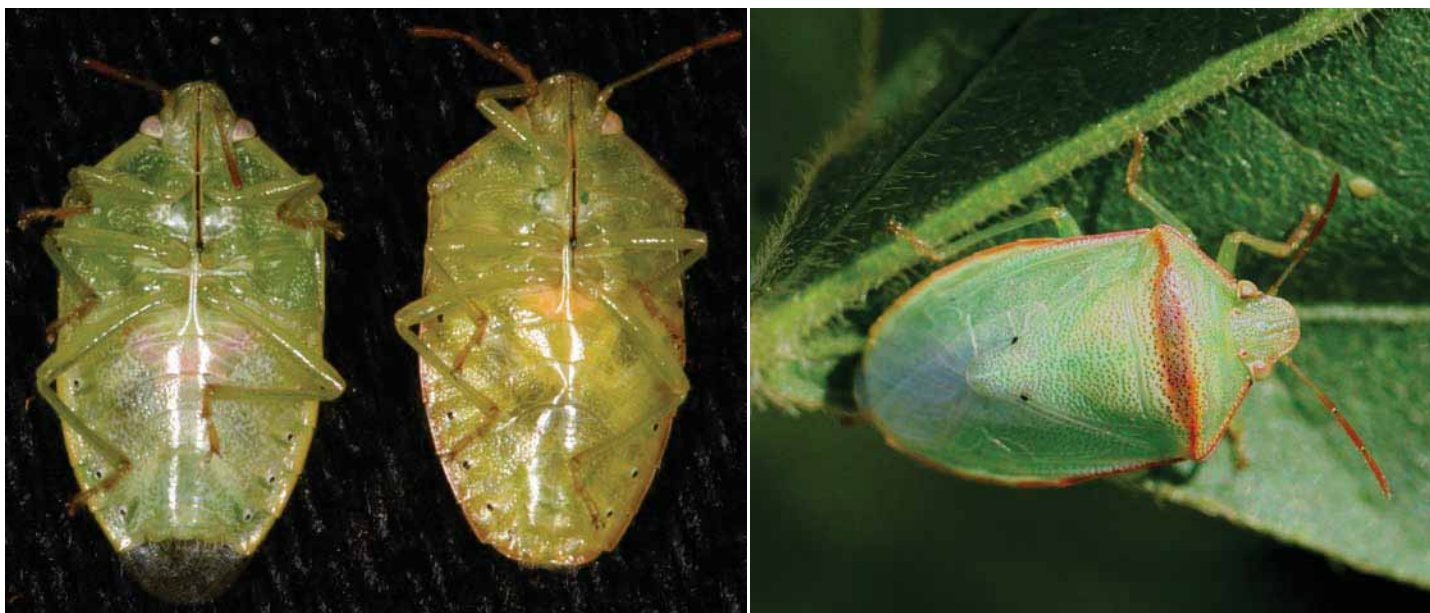
I have been observing stink bugs in fields of early-maturing soybeans (MG IVs), and I have seen many different species. One of the species has been the redbanded stink bug, *Piezodorus guildinii*. This species is a “Gulf-Coast” species but has increased its distribution to include at least the southern portion of South Carolina. This one could become important because of its tolerance to insecticides. In parts of Louisiana, this species can survive high rates of pyrethroids and some organophosphates. This species is capable of high reproduction

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rates, so its numbers can grow quickly. Be vigilant in looking for this species. I do not expect it to be a significant problem at this point, but I have observed more of them in SC each year I have been here, and this season marks the earliest that I have seen them. They are easy to identify because of the long spine on the abdomen or “belly”. The spine projects toward the head and surpasses the base of the middle pair of legs. This characteristic helps separate the redbanded stink bug from a similar species called the redshouldered stink bug that does not have this spine and is susceptible to insecticides. Adults of the redbanded stink bug are pictured below (dorsum and venter).



Redbanded stink bug, *Piezodorus guildinii*.

2009 SC Cotton Growers’ Guide, Pest Management Handbook, and Insect Control Guides

The 2009 South Carolina Cotton Growers’ Guide is available from your local county office in paper copy or online at: <http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/AGRO/EC589.PDF>.

The 2009 Pest Management Handbook is available in limited quantities. Contact your local county office for availability. A \$10 fee might be charged for the handbook. You can also download the handbook from: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/index.html>

Clemson University Publications IC97 (Cotton Insect Management) and SL1 (Soybean Insect Management) are available free from your local county office in paper copy or online at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/ENTOM/IC97.PDF> and

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/AGRO/SL1.PDF>

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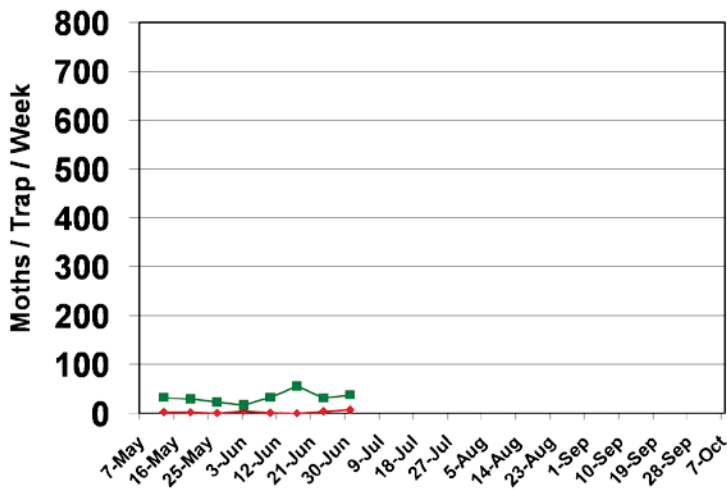
Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



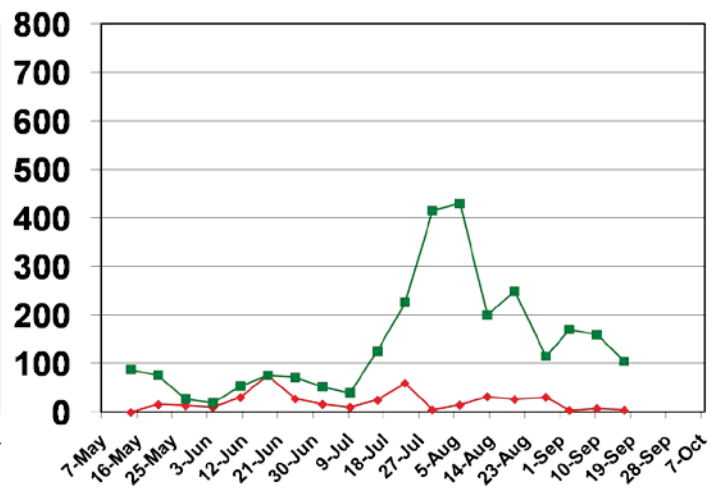
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season and last season are presented. The scales on the charts are the same to illustrate where we are compared with last year. We trapped about 38 BW and 8 TBW moths per trap this past week. Trap numbers continue to look much like they did last year.



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2009



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2008



Need More Information?

Log on to the following webpage to view important recommendations for cotton and soybean insect management, data, and historical cotton insect newsletters:
<http://www.clemson.edu/edisto/cotton/cotton.htm>

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.
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