Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

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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 19 July 2009, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 85% squared, ahead of where we were last year at 77% and ahead of the 5-yr average of 80%. At least 20% of the crop has set bolls, compared with about 27% this time last year and 26% for the 5-yr average. Conditions were described as 0% excellent, 50% good, 49% fair, and 1% poor for the crop. Overall, moisture levels are low, and more rainfall is needed. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Soybean Situation

As of 19 July 2009, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 15% of the crop reported as blooming, behind where we were last year at 20% and the 5-yr average of 26%. About 3% of the crop is setting pods, a little behind where we were last year at 4% and for the 5-yr average of 7%. Conditions were described as 0% excellent, 47% good, 46% fair, 6% poor, and 1% very poor. The crop needs more rain. 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

Dr. Mike Sullivan, Retired Research Entomologist with Clemson, reported earlier in the week that he observed the beginning of what looked to be the aphid fungus in at least one area. Perhaps that will turn into a widespread epizootic and get rid of these aphids. Others continue to report about aphids as a lingering annoyance.

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

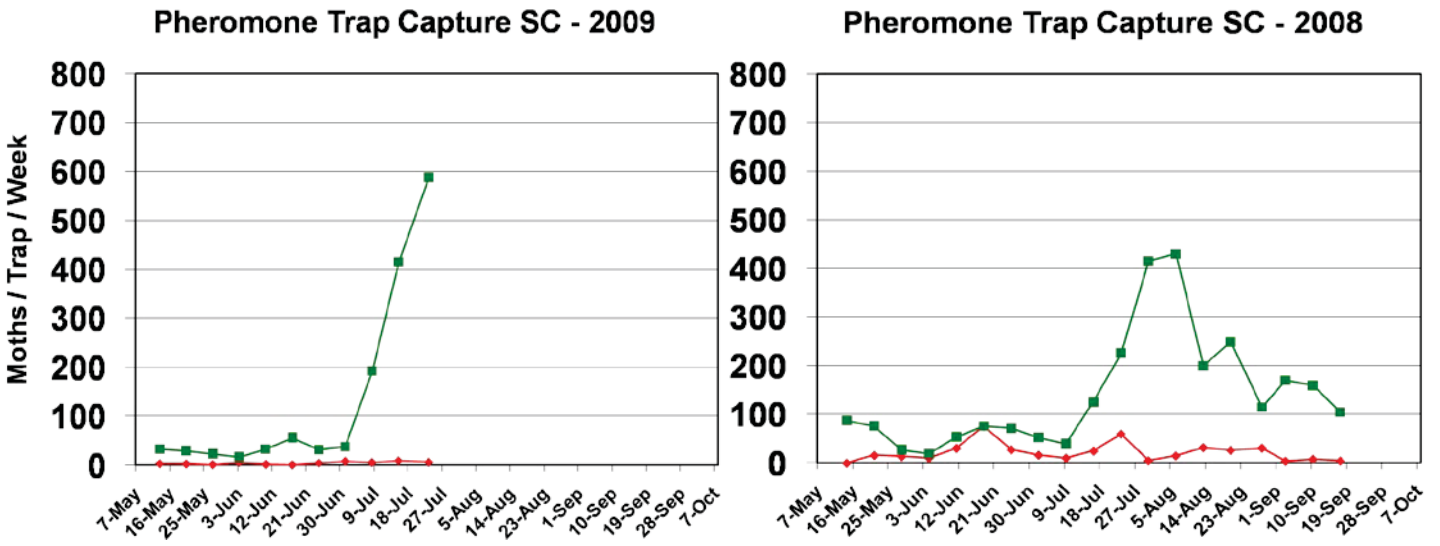
The 2009 South Carolina Cotton Growers' Guide is available from your local county office in paper copy or online at: http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/AGRO/EC589.PDF.

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/pest/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

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 almost 600 BW and 6 TBW moths per trap this past week. Captures of BW moths have dramatically increased again. How high will these numbers go, and how long will the pressure last once these moths start depositing eggs in high densities? I think they will go higher, and I think that this "flight" out of corn could persist for a lengthy period at high levels. The window for corn planting was a long one, so we have corn that is maturing at varying times. This scenario will likely provide extended pressure from corn earworm (bollworm). I would be aware of egg lay and moth flushes in cotton fields now, particularly if you have sprayed for bugs with an OP alone and have not used a pyrethroid yet. The Bts are very good, but you should check for escapes and use recommended thresholds. (See "Recommended Treatment Thresholds" below.) Also, we need to be aware of corn earworm (bollworm) in soybeans (called 'podworm' in soybeans), especially considering this level of moth activity, so check soybeans that are blooming or setting pods.



Recommended Treatment Thresholds

Treatment thresholds for the current or potential problem insects in cotton are listed below in brief description. See the management guide for complete descriptions:
http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/ENTOM/IC97.PDF

Insect	**Number per unit**
Stink bugs (SB)	1 SB per 6 row feet or 20% injury to medium-sized bolls, but more aggressive (i.e. 10%) during weeks 3-5 of bloom
Bollworm (BW) *1st generation Bt cotton*	After 1st bloom: 75 eggs, 30 small (<0.25 inch) or 3 larger (>0.25 inch) larvae per 100 plants, or 5% damaged bolls
Bollworm *2nd generation Bt cotton*	No threshold using eggs or small larvae; after 1st bloom: 3 or more larger (>0.25 inch) larvae per 100 plants or 5% damaged bolls
Bollworm *Non-Bt cotton*	After 1st bloom: 20 or more eggs or 3 small (<0.25 inch) larvae per 100 plants or 5% damaged squares
Tobacco budworm (TBW) *Non-Bt cotton only – not found in Bt cotton*	Before 1st bloom: 15 small (<0.25 inch) larvae per 100 plants or 20% damaged squares; after 1st bloom: 20 eggs or 3 small larvae per 100 plants or 5% damaged squares
Aphids	Plants severely infested with actively growing colonies present
Fall armyworm (FAW)	10 or more per 100 plants, checking blooms and bolls
Spider mites	50% of plants infested with actively growing colonies present

Treatment thresholds for the current or potential problem insects in soybeans are listed below in brief description. See the management guide for complete descriptions:
http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/AGRO/SL1.PDF

Treatment thresholds **(per 3 row ft)** for soybean insects sampled with **beat cloth**.					
Pest	Row width (inches)				
	38	30	21	14	7
stink bug	3	2.4	1.6	1.1	0.5
corn earworm*	6	4.7	3.3	2.2	1.1
velvetbean caterpillar	12-18	12	8.3	5.5	2.7
soybean looper	18-24	16	11.6	7.7	3.8
*this is the pod-feeding threshold for corn earworm					

Treatment guidelines for soybean insects sampled with a **sweep net**.		
Pest	Number per 10 sweeps	Comments
stink bug	1-2	
corn earworm	3	or 15% foliage loss
velvetbean caterpillar	10	or 15% foliage loss
soybean looper	15	or 15% foliage loss
For other foliage feeders use a threshold of 30% defoliation before first bloom, 15% after first bloom.		

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/extension/rowcrops/

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.
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Visit our website at:
http://www.clemson.edu